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16 MARCH 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY DER SPIEGEL

Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Nov 86 pp 3, 9

[Interview with Mustafa Talas by DER SPIEGEL]

[Text] DER SPIEGEL's explanation: Mustafa Talas has been the minister of defense of Syria since 1972. Before anything else he has acquired [secured] this powerful post as a result of his devotion to Hafez Assad, president of Syria who is one of the most mysterious heads of state. With the assistance provided by the Soviet Union, which until now amount to 19 billion dollars, Talas, the defense minister, has changed Syria into one of the region's stalwart powers. Talas has close contact with the Soviet Union, which has signed a friendship pact with his country. Moreover, Syria has a special role in the Persian Gulf war. This country is the only ally and partner of Tehran against Iraq and before anything else against Saddam Hoseyn, president of that nation. The fight and battle against this or that lackey of the United States or against Israel and the United States itself constitute part of the political and military policy of this army general who in the Arab world is known as a man of letters, an experienced amateur photographer and a historian of military issues. This general, who has a friendship with Strauss, considers Germany a very good friend.

Question: Mr minister, recently you got your doctorate degree from Sorbonne University, we wish to congratulate you on that. Why did you write your thesis on Marshal Zhukov?

Answer: This matter did not pertain to the university alone since Zhukov was also a personal friend of mine. My reason for writing about him emanates from the fact that after World War II many books were written on American, British and German generals while until now the ideas and strategic views of Zhukov have not been seriously studied either in the West or in the East.

Question: Does Soviet military strategy encourage you for staging a lightning attack on the Golan Heights which has been occupied by Israel since 1967?

Answer: Recapture of the Golan Heights is considered one of our everyday routine military solutions. Golan belongs to Syria and thus we have every right to devise the necessary plans for recapturing it. Most certainly we will make use of Zhukov's experiments in order to liberate our country.

Question: Will your attack for liberating the Golan Heights be put into action soon?

Answer: So far I have talked about our rights and I cannot divulge the military plans.

Question: Therefore, you are not going to tell us whether Moscow has provided you with the latest model of fighter bombers and the most accurate medium-range missiles?

Answer: I will not make any comments on the military secrets of the Syrian Army.

Question: Why as of 1982, has Syria enhanced its military capability 50 percent? If it does not intend to use its military hardware against Israel, then why has Syria obtained such enormous quantity of modern armaments from Moscow?

Answer: It is true that as of 1982 we have been busy equipping ourselves, but we have not yet reached the level of Israel's military capability. Israel receives an annual military aid of about six billion dollars from the United States while our military budget for this purpose hardly reaches three billion dollars.

Question: Why such mammoth military expenditures?

Answer: There are two reasons: First, Egypt does not fight alongside us since it is an American satellite. When in 1982 president Mubarak made a little objection to the invasion of Lebanon by Israel in the press, the defense minister of Israel openly threatened and said: You button up your mouth, you know full well that we can recapture the Sinai desert in three hours. (There is no mention of the second reason here, but it will be mentioned later - translator).

Question: Egypt is not the only conciliatory state among the Arab countries.

Answer: Yes, it is true. As a result of its unjust war against Iran, Iraq is busy now and for this reason in a war against Israel our two armies cannot participate simultaneously. Therefore, this war has no benefits for the Arabs and the only nations which stand to benefit from it are Israel and the United States.

Question: Most of the Syrian weapons are aimed at Israel, will your missiles be aimed at Israeli cities or its military targets?

Answer: In all our wars with Israel, we have never been the aggressor.

Question: What was the situation in 1973?

Answer: Michel Jobert, former French foreign minister once said: "Whoever returns to his home is not an aggressor." If we recapture the Golan Heights we will not be deemed aggressors. In all the wars we have had, we never attacked a non-military target and this is an essential characteristic of our policy. However, there should be no doubt that if Israel attacks our non-military targets, we will obligingly do so.

Question: But if you do not inflict the first blow and Israel desists from attacking you, then everything will remain as it is right now and the Golan Heights will never be liberated.

Answer: No, president Assad has asked for an international conference to find a solution to the Middle East problem and if we do not get any result, thereafter we have to resort to arms.

Question: Assad seeks a military balance with Israel. Is this construed as the first step toward a leading role for Syria in the Middle East and formation of a great Arab power?

Answer: Any individual Arab dreams of the Arab unity and likewise our president has every right to have such wishes. As long as we are not united, any enemy of ours can start a war with us; however, if we were united no one would dare to commit such impudence. And since this matter is still only a vision, president Assad attempts to create a strategic balance with Israel--this is the second reason for equipping ourselves.

Question: Do you believe that by increasing your military capability you can attain this goal?

Answer: You know quite well that a country with a weak army will be regarded as unimportant and without influence. It is enough for one to look at Lebanon. There, in Lebanon they used to say they would forgo their military security and said that their military weakness in itself would be a strength--since they believed in putting more emphasis on economic power, international commerce services and tourism. Then you saw what the result was! Within a few days Israel destroyed everything with its tanks.

Question: Even for its mere size there is no comparison between Syria and Lebanon.

Answer: Please keep in mind that we are seeking to strike a military balance with a country which is supported extensively by a superpower like the United States. Here it seems necessary to give you an example. On June 6, 1982 the Israelis dropped a special bomb on Beirut which even disintegrated the concrete dwellings like a piece of paper. This bomb was manufactured in California in April 1982. The Americans test their weapons through Israelis in a war against Arabs. It is for preventing the recurrence of such incident that president Assad is seeking a military balance. We merely react to aggression, the language which has been used by the Israelis against us.

Question: In the attack on Libya by the United States in April, the Moscow-manufactured weapons could not do much. Syria's military hardware has also been provided by the same country. Wouldn't you be worried about the same kind of defeat?

Answer: The Soviet weapons had the necessary capability, but the superpower United States with better equipment attacked a small country which does not even have two million inhabitants. Although the United States bombed some Libyan

targets, this attack never could shake the resistance of the people of Libya and it should be mentioned that the Libyan missiles caused the crash of a U.S. fighter plane. They found the body of the pilot somewhere along the coast of Libya and thus the claims of Washington which asserted that no planes had crashed proved to be baseless.

Question: Taking into consideration the air defense capabilities of Tripoli and Benghazi, even the crash of a single fighter plane does not seem a great success. It seems that the Soviet-made weaponry are no match for their U.S.-manufactured counterparts.

Answer: As a military man let me tell you that no serious chance for a test of weapons' capability between the Soviet-made and the U.S.-manufactured ones came about. What the United States did was to launch a surprise attack at night by way of Tunisia and in less than a few minutes they dropped their bombs and left. Anyone can do a thing like that. Furthermore, the psychological effect of this assault was far greater than its military implications. If Reagan had landed his troops on the coast of Libya, then you can be assured that the Americans would have felt the capability of the Soviet-made weapons.

Question: Perhaps one day you yourself will try to prove this. Washington has warned Syria on many occasions for its alleged/probable support of terrorism.

Answer: We make a distinction between brusque terrorism against common people and an armed struggle against the aggressors. President Assad has always warned our Palestinian friends with regard to attack on non-military targets in Europe and the United States. Anyone who wishes to fight against Israel had better go there and get into battle with the Israeli soldiers. The Syrians who live in the occupied Golan Heights killed five Israeli soldiers last year and this is something which has been admitted by Israel itself. Therefore, once more I stress the point that we condemn terrorist operations against non-military people, but on the contrary we support armed resistance against the occupiers.

Question: Please give us an example of one terrorist act which you condemn.

Answer: The seizure of Achille Lauro was a foolish crime and an odious display.

Question: How about the attempts on lives in Istanbul and Karachi? Were these attempts terrorist operations or do you think they were legal and permissible resistance?

Answer: These attempts on lives were all terrorist acts and we strongly condemn them. There should be no doubt that resistance must take place in and around the occupied areas and not in foreign lands with resort to terrorist operations.

Question: Who is behind the recent attempts on lives?

Answer: So far we know nothing about this matter, and it is not so important either. At any rate, these attempts are nothing but odious crimes.

Question: Still, Israel has threatened revenge.

Answer: They can make as many threats as they like, we are not interested in hearing such threats. Syria had no part in the terrorist acts in Istanbul and Karachi.

Question: How seriously do you take the statements made by U.S. general Rogers, commander of NATO forces in Europe, with regard to threats of military attacks against Syria?

Answer: Undoubtedly, if a superpower like the United States launches an attack against us, it can inflict certain losses on us. But in Syria we do not live like an orphaned kid. We have a powerful father like president Hafez Assad. We are capable of attacking any U.S. target in the region. Any attack against us will meet with serious reaction and Washington is precisely aware of that.

Question: Then what is the purpose for the U.S. threats?

Answer: They intend to scare us, but they are not going to be successful. We are very well capable of defending ourselves and if they insist on starting a war with us, we have no fear of becoming engaged in a war.

Question: If Washington inflicts a blow, will Moscow rush to your help?

Answer: We will answer such attacks ourselves. However, if U.S. troops land on our coasts, they must not forget that we have a friendship pact with Moscow. We do not need any Soviet soldiers, we need only arms. We have an active army of half a million soldiers with another 500,000 as reserves. If we can obtain arms from the Soviet Union for one million combatants, then we will be able to fight against the United States on our land.

Question: It seems that you derive certain satisfaction from this matter.

Answer: Yes, let the Americans once more attack the Arabs. Finally they will realize that we have nothing for Washington except anger and hatred. Personally, I am very interested to see that the animosity between the United States and the Arabs become openly exposed so that the Americanized Arabs and some Arab leaders can no longer pretend that the United States is a friend of the Arabs. The United States is only fond of Arab oil and their money.

Question: Terrorist acts can be used as an excellent medium for inciting open animosity against the United States.

Answer: Once I explained to you that we are opposed to terrorism. If we really were interested in that, we could have, by now, conducted thousands of terrorist acts.

Question: Nevertheless, it is said that Damascus has been involved in the bombings which occurred in Vienna, Rome and London and even the one in a club in Berlin and it was for this reason that Libya was bombed.

Answer: I assure you that we had no involvement in these operations. You only need to think once that terrorism will only benefit the Israelis. We know full well that they've infiltrated the small groups of Palestinian right-wingers and before everything else they've penetrated the close clique of Arafat. I firmly believe that these hoodlums are instigated by Israel to commit terrorist acts.

Question: Is Arafat an Israeli agent?

Answer: Arafat is a U.S. lackey, the same way Sadat was an American stooge before that. For Egypt, the United States was considered to be an absolute power and today Arafat believes in that, and likewise he is considered to be Sadat II. You only need to remember the filthy crimes of some of Arafat's henchmen like Abu-Abbas who masterminded the seizure of Achille Lauro, and so forth. The United States at the time raised a hue and cry that if we capture you [Abu-Abbas] we are going to execute you. But what was the answer of this hoodlum? He said: "Please let me come to the United States to prove my innocence." This is the strangest relationship between an offender and his victim. Is there anything more foolish than that?

Question: At a time when Syria is able to exert some influence and makes an attempt for the release of the hostages in Lebanon, certainly it would be one way of distancing oneself from terrorism and it is much more effective than any other explanation. Don't you have an extensive influence there [in Lebanon]?

Answer: We have much influence in Lebanon, but we do not have control over the whole country. There are many armed groups which we cannot order around. President Assad ordered that we should do our best to help those poor hostages and thus we began an intensive effort toward the release of these hostages; however, Reagan's attack on Libya put all our efforts in the shade.

Question: Two years ago you gave a rousing welcome to Gemayel, president of Lebanon, today he is regarded as a criminal in the Arab world. Are you at an impasse in Lebanon?

Answer: By no means. Our policy in Lebanon is based on the singleness of the country and the unity of the people there.

Question: But Lebanese people think otherwise.

Answer: We the Syrians and the Lebanese are one nation which lives in two countries. From the very first days of independence of the two countries, there has been special relations between our two governments. We cannot bring about a change in that since Lebanon, like Syria, is an Arab country. All the attempts

by Israel or the United States for separating Lebanon from the Arabs will be doomed. We will never allow Lebanon to become a region under the influence of Israel or the United States. Lebanon belongs to the large family of Syria.

Question: Why all of a sudden do you need a German politician to arbitrate in your family dispute? Once more recently Josef Strauss arrived in Damascus to act apparently as an arbitrator between Gemayel and Syria.

Answer: Josef Strauss is a personal friend of president Assad and myself. We have a long-standing friendship. You are probably aware of my strong interest in the German people. I am very fond of Strauss and my heart only beats for Bavaria. Once in a while Strauss makes a trip to our country or we go there to see him and talk about the international situation and that of the Arab world. Most of the time we all agree on the same issue and for this reason Strauss can not play the role of an arbitrator.

Question: What is the reason for such a strange interest between a socialist Talas and a right-wing German. The man has never denied his devotion or loyalty to the United States or his relationship with Israel?

Answer: We know that Strauss is a representative of the German people and necessarily he will be considered a friend of the United States, but this is something for him to decide and has nothing to do with us. Strauss thinks because of his friendship with some Israeli politicians he might be able to help us.

Question: Will he be able to do something?

Answer: I consider Strauss a polished diplomat. In case someone in Israel bad mouths him he will retort instantly and unlike other timid German politicians he is not going to remain silent. Strauss is a very good friend of Peres, prime minister of Israel, however while he was in Damascus, in front of president Assad he said: "Arabs are right, there has been injustice done toward them." Strauss did not hide the fact that he is sincerely in our support. We all agree that the problems of the Middle East can only be resolved through an international peace conference and the United States must not appear as an absolute power on the world scene.

Question: What form will the more powerful Syria take in the Middle East? Recently your troops returned to Beirut. Are you finally planning to bring the Lebanese capital under the domain of Syria.

Answer: No. The government of Lebanon asked us to return to West Beirut to stop the bloodshed among the militiamen. The people of West Beirut have shed their constant fear and sleep better at night now.

Question: Are Syrian troops going to take position in the Christian areas soon?

Answer: I have a lot of friends who live in the East side of Beirut and they always ask me: "When are your soldiers going to establish security in our region?" The people of Lebanon have become tired of the militiamen and if the government of Lebanon asks us so, we will go there.

Question: This issue of Lebanon, where will it end? Arafat, rather haughtily says: It is some time now that his warriors have returned to Lebanon.

Answer: There are no pro-Arafat forces in Lebanon, only a few mercenary murderers live there. And following the instructions of his masters in CIA, Arafat instigates those hoodlums against Amal Shiites. U.S. intelligence organization has full control over the Arafat's Fatah movement.

Question: Was it for this reason that Damascus prevented the reconciliatory developments between king Hoseyn of Jordan and Arafat?

Answer: Arafat was hopeful that with the help of Hoseyn he can get closer to his idol, namely the United States and for this reason he wanted Hoseyn to play his game in Washington, but Hoseyn knew that there is nothing to be won in the game with the United States. If he had agreed to play Arafat's game, perhaps something like Sadat's peace initiative would have come about, however Hoseyn had to pay a heavy toll...

Question: The same price that Sadat paid?

Answer: It was for this reason that Hoseyn told Arafat that nothing can be done without the presence of Syria. But Arafat has burned all the bridges which would have allowed him to return to Syria. He does not hold a trump card anymore, he has lost the game. He is more Americanized than any American and no Palestinian trust him anymore. This petty man wanted to be present at the meeting of Shimon Peres with the King of Morocco, and even King Hassan didn't want to hear anything about Arafat.

Question: What did Arafat want from Israel?

Answer: He is still living in the dream world that one day eventually a piece of bone will be thrown to him from the Israeli table, but the truth is that the Israelis will not even throw an old shoe for him to chew on. Only someone who fights can be sure to attain his rights.

Question: This situation is not only true with regard to Arafat's Fatah movement, but the Shiite fighters of Hezbollah are also causing some worries in Lebanon too.

Answer: Hezbollah has created some good fighters against Israel, but among Hezbollah guerrillas, like some other such groups, there are a few elements who want to set their own policy. Here, odious figures like Arafat interfere in the game.

Question: Is Iran, your ally, not able to control the Hezbollahis, namely the people who are pro-imam Khomeyni?

Answer: Arafat people who infiltrated among Hezbollahis took four Soviet diplomats hostage and murdered one of them.

Question: Another region full of bloodshed and carnage. In your opinion how long will this carnage continue in the Persian Gulf?

Answer: The Persian Gulf war will end only after Saddam is gone. The United States set a trap for Saddam and he fell in it. Apparently, they had convinced him that Iraq will be able to conquer Iran within a few days and that rabid dog, whose actions are not predictable, accepted their views.

Question: Is Damascus not able to convince Tehran to accept a cease-fire?

Answer: Syria cannot intervene [intercede] since one cannot trust the foxy Saddam, under any circumstances. Remember that one day after the U.S. assault on Libya, Saddam Hoseyn exploded a car-bomb in our country where six full passenger buses were destroyed. I wanted to reciprocate, but president Hafez Assad prevented any action in this regard.

Question: Way?

Answer: He did not want to bring himself down to the level of Iraqis. Our president is really a far-sighted leader like your own Bismarck. He has always said that our animosity with Israel is sufficient, and that we, the Arabs must not open another front with our neighbors on the east.

Question: Apparently you do not support Iran only with arms. According to some Iraqi sources, bodies of Syrian soldiers have been found on the battle-fields.

Answer: No, this is not true. Saddam Hoseyn has been a big liar and will remain so. We provide moral support to the Iranians, but we do not give them any important war weapons; furthermore, we do not provide them with any soldiers. Our action is very rational and now in Tehran they cannot say that they're fighting against all the Arabs.

Question: What is the benefit of this action for the Arabs?

Answer: This is a guaranty for us that the enmity between the Iranians and the Arabs will not go on forever. After the downfall of Saddam Hoseyn all the Iranian troops will leave Arab territories. This is a promise which has been given to us by imam Khomeyni.

Question: How about after Khomeyni, will his successors honor such a promise?

Answer: Of course imam Khomeyni's policy is the policy of the revolution of Iran and his successors must abide by it. They object to Saddam Hoseyn's rule and we also would like to get rid of him too. Iranians have no interest for expansionism on the Arab territories at all.

Question: Are you quite sure that the fundamentalists have no intention of destroying Kuwait or Saudi Arabia?

Answer: No, no. No other Arab country will be dragged into this war. Otherwise, our relationship with regard to the war will change and the Iranians are well aware of this fact.

Question: In June it seemed that King Hoseyn of Jordan succeeded, after a long period, in bringing the presidents of the two countries of Iraq and Syria, who are opposed to each other, together at one table. Did you really want to change your position?

Answer: King Hoseyn tried to bring closer together the mutual points of agreement between Baghdad and Damascus and had even made some progress in this regard, however this progress was not so overwhelming to make us abandon our strategic friendship with Iran.

Question: How close did Syria and Iraq get?

Answer: As a goodwill gesture once again we opened the Iraqi pipeline which ends in Tripoli in Lebanon. But the foreign minister of Iraq said that Baghdad wants either all relations restored [including discontinuing relations with Iran] or none and thus this demand seemed to us to be the end of our relations. So long as the Iranians want, in concert with us to conquer Jerusalem, we cannot attack them [Iranians] from behind. It is five years now that Iran has been providing one million barrels of free oil for the consumption of our armed forces annually.

Question: Therefore, you will gain the courage to attack Israel, in the publicized battle, only when Jordan and Iraq can join you.

Answer: That is correct. But such a unity will come about only after Saddam Hoseyn is gone. In the past there was a good custom among the German military men. If a general was engaged in a battle and felt he was on the verge of losing the battle, he would get hold of his revolver and commit suicide rather than face defeat and lose the war. For six years now, Saddam Hoseyn has been losing every battle and victimizing his nation.

Question: Why have you started a new animosity with your old friends such as the Moroccans who in 1973 alongside with you fought against Israelis? Your president berates the king of Morocco for his crime--because he held talks with Peres. Is King Hassan not following the path which was in agreement with the views of Syria at the conference of the heads of the Arab states which was held in Faus in 1982?

Answer: Hassan II is a big liar. Despite the fact that Morocco in the war of October [1973] fought side by side with us against Israel, now Hassan has done himself in.

Disclosing Secret News

Question: Who was he afraid of?

Answer: He was afraid of the Americans. Now I would like to tell DER SPIEGEL secret news. In 1972 I knew that general Oufkir [Moroccan defense minister] with the help of the United States was in charge of staging a coup d'etat to overthrow Hassan II. I made Hassan aware of the situation; nevertheless, he profoundly trusted that general and a few weeks later the public rebellion in Sukrat reached its zenith. After his defeat in the above-stated incident, general Oufkir murdered six leaders who were involved in the incident who were all generals and among them was even a brother-in-law of King Hassan. This was done because he did not want anybody to know who was in charge of the planned coup.

Question: How were Americans involved in this incident?

Answer: During the planned coup, like any other similar cases, the sixth American fleet was roaming the coastal waters of Morocco and they were supposed to shoot down the plane which was carrying Hassan [who was returning from a visit abroad] by the fighter bombers of Moroccan Air Force. One of King Hassan's loyal officers found a document which showed general Oufkir's signature at the bottom of an order to the pilots. This officer instantly shot the general and finally King Hassan accepted the truth about the treason.

Question: Thus you succeeded in making Hassan anti-American?

Answer: Unfortunately not. This hireling king, after this bitter experience, instead of distancing himself from the Americans, from that date on made more effort to get closer to them so that the United States would not pull him down from his shaky throne. He even invited Jean Kirkpatrick--that rabid bitch who in the Security Council of the UN used to bite Arabs quite delightedly--Hassan with his own hands honored here with the Royal Order, which is the highest medal in Morocco.

Question: It is said that Hassan has been informed through Peres that Damascus, since some time ago, has signed a secret agreement with Israel.

Answer: Not even one word of such a statement is right. There is no country in the whole world which is more hostile to Israel than Syria and there is no nation which hates Israelis more than ours and we pride ourselves in that.

Question: What is your opinion about Mubarak-Peres meeting of September 11 at the Port of Alexandria?

Answer: Who is Mubarak anyway? Like Sadat, he is also in cahoots with the United States. These days he boasts that in 1977 he did not accompany Sadat to Jerusalem--this was quite an accidental matter. If and whenever Sadat whistled, Mubarak would follow him like a puppy. He is flirting with the Israelis by phone everyday. They are not supposed to kiss each other in public so that no one will know what is going on between them. But, eventually there will be a national uprising in Egypt one day and Mubarak will be swept away like trash. Egypt, where a person like Gamal Abdel Nasser was born, will in the future present other leaders like him.

Question: This fearless, overboard policy of yours in reality prompted other Arab leaders to go it alone and seek solutions and make contact with Israel by themselves.

Answer: We did not decide on this fact-to-face [overboard] policy. At Faus conference president Assad succeeded in uniting the Arabs to a certain extent. The decisions which were made in the said meeting demonstrate our desire for a just peace and we will never endure the thought of an occupied territory.

Question: At present, Mikhail Gorbachev, Kremlin leader is interested in normalizing Moscow's relations with its enemy, Israel. Does the Israel-Soviet Union meeting of August in Helsinki not sound an alarm for Syria?

Answer: Please, do not make a mountain out of a mole-hill. This meeting was on a consular level and was nothing like the visit of head of states. When the Israelis became too audacious and asked questions about the Jews in the Soviet Union at this meeting, the Soviets told them you better pack up and leave.

Question: Sudden recall of the Soviet ambassador to Damascus took place only after two years of service. Does this not signal the advent of cooling of relations between Syria and Moscow?

Answer: There is a new foreign minister in Moscow and he selects his ambassadors. The capital of the country in question charts the policy and not the ambassador.

Question: Does Moscow's envoy to Damascus carry out many individual policies?

Answer: In Damascus only one person determines the policy and that is the president and the secretary general of the Ba'th Party, namely Hafez Assad.

Question: Do you have any guarantees that your big brother will not use Syria as appeasement bait to strike a balance with Washington or with Israel?

Answer: Certainly Moscow will not stab us in the back. More understanding between the superpowers will help us get one step closer to redeeming our rights.

Question: You claim to be an opponent of the United States which according to your suppositions not only has attracted Arafat, Saddam Hoseyn and Mubarak, but

also engineered a coup d'etat in Morocco and forced the Lebanese Gemayel to change his policy and also attacked Libya without being punished. Despite all these alleged actions, is it not better for you to establish an understanding with Washington?

Answer: No. The only recognition that the U.S. politicians have of the Arabs is hatred and contempt. They only want to belittle us. They do not pay any attention to other issues in this region and they are only worried about Israel. I would rather die a thousand time than kowtow to the Americans.

Question: Dr Talas, with the publication of the book in which you've accused the Jews of murdering the Christians, you've aroused some objections. What are you trying to prove with this horrible old story?

Answer: This book is an historical piece of work based on documents from France, Vienna and the American University in Beirut. Shortly I will have it published in Germany too. These strong reactions about this book only prove that there are undeniable facts in there; otherwise, no one would have paid any attention to them at all.

Question: Why didn't you agree to talk with the American ambassador who wanted to discuss the issues about this book?

Answer: Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, without having any knowledge/recognition of this book, proscribed it and sent his ambassador to me to express his protest. What could I talk to him about! You know, the Americans just walk around and talk without making sense. They would like us to chew gum with them.

Question: Why wasn't Bush, Reagan's deputy in his recent trip to the Middle East, warmly welcomed in Damascus?

Answer: Because of the bad experiences which we experienced. For example, we asked the U.S. secretary of state's view with regard to resolving an issue, he said: "This matter does not fall within my qualifications, only the president can resolve that." We also studied his attitude toward other issues and finally realized that he did not know anything about resolving the situation and then we asked ourselves: Is he the secretary of state of a superpower or a janitor! Likewise, Bush wanted to talk to me about terrorism and that is something unimportant to me, besides I don't have time for such petty talks.

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CSO: 4640/84

'CONFIDENTIAL LETTER' REVEALS EXECUTION OF 254 IN AL-'AMARAH

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Dec 86 p 18

[Text] Nearly seven years of all-encompassing war against Iran has shown that the propaganda camp of Iraq, whose invisible borders extend from the United States to the Far East, feeds on two essential notions: first, that of the military superiority of Iraq, especially given the numerous problems of Iran, mainly the arms shortages; and, secondly, Iraq's spirit of seeking peace and stability in contrast to the belligerent spirit of Iran and Iran's ignoring of international regulations, particularly Iran's violation of "human rights." Given that the military superiority of Iraq has lost its credibility in world public opinion in the recent months, with the depth and dimensions of the current realities and facts on the fronts and the frequent victories of Iran, and given that the experts and military and research centers and circles, in spite of their initial denials and insistence, have finally had to confess to Iran's power, the first factor seems to have been threatened and can no longer be relied on or taken advantage of. However, the second factor continues to be of special importance in the political and propaganda war against Iran and has remained invulnerable. The ruckus about human rights in the Iraqi prisoner of war camp in Gorgan and such efforts as the production and distribution of "Vahshi and Shirin" all stem from this source and are ground out in the mill of calling Iran "barbarian" and belligerent on the one hand and calling Iraq peace-seeking on the other.

In the meantime, what is openly ignored and covered up is the unrestrained barbarism that has assaulted all political, social and cultural life in Iraq.

The massacre of soldiers who refuse to fight for the sinister goals of the Ba'th Party of Iraq, or even those who instinctively retreat when facing the heavy attacks of the Iranian forces, and not because of political motives, make up but a small part of these crimes.

A list of 254 victims of this kind of crime, with their military and organizational ranks along with the written decree of the Iraqi army command is provided below.

This document reveals to the reader, without need of any sort of analysis, the crimes of the Baghdad regime, the internal weakness of the Iraqi army and its command, and also the political and spiritual influence of the Islamic Republic to the core of the Saddam forces, as well as Saddam's efforts to frighten the Iraqi

army personnel with these executions, when he thought of himself as powerful and refused to speak of peace.

Certainly, this document does not show all the crimes that occur on a daily basis in Iraq. However, its publication can throw some light on the dark corners of the rule of the Ba'th Party and the endless darkness that governs Iraq.

Absolutely Confidential

To Codes 1, 2, 3, 4 and the Base Company

Absolutely confidential and private letter 183 of the command of the first army, dated 23/3/62 [13 June 1983], which was sent to this unit, is as follows:

On the morning of 1/3/62 [22 May 1983], in the presence of the commander of the fourth army, the commander of the Ba'th Party divisions (al-'Amarah) along with the governor general and a large number of the Ba'th Party members, officers and noncommissioned officers, the execution decree involving the following criminals, who have committed treason against their nation, people and homeland, was carried out.

All those who may think of treason or escaping military service or any sort of cooperation with the Iranian enemy are forewarned that their fate will be the same as that of these criminals.

Second Colonel of the Headquarters

Zaki Mohammad Hasan

From: Commander of T428 Infantry

Name and Rank, Unit of Service, Date of Arrest

Pvt Naji 'Abd 'Ali Jarrollah, code 1T22L8, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt Hoseyn 'Ali Gasad, code 196 field artillery L14, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Karim Mehdi Hoseyn, code 3T44L15, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Hasan Yas Asad, company 32 transportation L2, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt Hoseyn 'Enad Sho'ayb, code 2T39L7, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Majed Naser Khazir, commando forces L7, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Mohammad 'Abd Kasureh, code 18T commando L17, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolhoseyn Mohammad Na'meh, code 1T701L5, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolhadi Mohel Vashib, code 1T701L5, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Yaser Halbus Vadi, code 3T421L10, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Nuri Saleh Mahmud, code 3T501L15, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Kamel Sha'lan Maz'al, code 2T94L1, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]

Pvt Qasem Vahid Mas'ud, code 7T26 armored, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Fazel 'Abd 'Ali, code 40 field artillery, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt Kazem Mazban Ghilan, code 1T1L1, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Pvt Hasan 'Abdossdeh, code 15 field engineering, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt Faleh Jaseem Mohammad, base company and (manh) TL1, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]

Pvt 'Ali Jaseem Mohammad, code 3T27L1, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Ta'meh 'Aziz Dakhil, code 3T45, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdollah Lab Shamhud, code 1T18L14, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]

Pvt Ebrahim Haji Morad, code 3T426L14, 15/2/62 [5 May 1983]

Pvt Samar Shahab Ahmad, light antiaircraft regiment 17 L1, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Mohammad Mehdi Mohammad, code 5T238L6, 13/1/62 [2 April 1983]

Pvt Jaseem 'Abdolhoseyn Ra'id, code 3T27L, 16/2/61 [6 May 1982]

Pvt Mohammad Yunos Ahmad, 16 light artillery L14, 12/1/62 [1 April 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Najam 'Abdolhoseyn Mahmud, base company and (manh) T59 armored, 9/2/62 [29 March 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Sadeq Jaber Hamud, code 4T427, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt Hoseyn 'Ali Hoseyn, code 4T427L1, 28/2/62 [18 May 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Nasir 'Abid Rashed, code 3T14L20, 30/12/61 [21 March 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Hoseyn Jaseem Mohammad, code 3T14L20, 18/1/62 [18 April 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Saleh Zalil Lazmak, code 3T48L15, 6/1/62 [26 March 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Kazem 'Abdolzahrah, code 3T48L15, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class 'Abdolkarim Jaseem Mohammad, code 3T418, 23/1/62 [12 April 1983]
Sgt 3rd Class Javad Kazem Matabi, base company L14, 17/12/61 [8 March 1983]
Pvt Karim Ebrahim Hamzeh, code 1T501, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]
Reserve Pvt Farhud Hadi 'Ali, code 1T113, 6/2/62 [26 April 1983]
Pvt 'Abbas Mohammad Faraj, code 1T702, 18/1/62 [7 April 1983]
Pvt 'Abdolmalek Nayef Khazir, code 1T702, 7/2/62 [27 April 1983]
Reserve Pvt 'Abdolmehdi Hamzeh Sa'id, code 1T113, 22/2/62 [12 April 1983]
Sgt 3rd Class Khaz'al Halbut Hamed, code 3T83L1, 4/2/62 [24 April 1983]
Reserve Pvt Salem 'Abd, code 2T113L11, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]
Reserve Pvt Kazem 'Abbas Sabahi, code 2L11, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]
Sgt 3rd Class Jabbar Hasan 'Akaleh, code 2L11, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]
Sgt 3rd Class Vamiz Halal Hasan, code 2L11, 13/12/61 [4 March 1983]
Pvt Borhan Jabbar 'Abud, code 3T418L1, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]
Pvt Jom'eh Khalifar Fayyaz, commando unit L14, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]
Pvt Na'im Sabah Mohammad, medium repair shop 56L8, 26/12/62 [16 March 1983]
Pvt 'Abdolsamad 'Abdolzahreh, code 1T109L11, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]
Pvt Badr Mahmud 'Abdullah, gunnery 129 field artillery L11, 25/1/62 [14 April 1983]
Pvt Sami Sahab Mohammad, code 3T501L15, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]
Pvt Salah Hesani 'Abdol'amir, code 3T501L51, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]
Pvt Salman Fazel Hamdan, Qadessiyeh commando forces L1, 27/1/62 [16 April 1983]
Pvt Valid Rashi Majid, commando company 113PL14, 27/1/62 [16 April 1983]
Pvt Sattar Jabbar 'Abd, commando company T113PL14, 26/1/62 [15 April 1983]
Private Fazel Jabr 'Ebadi, code 2T18L15, 17/1/62 [6 April 1983]
Pvt Latif Mohammad Davud, code 2T18L15, 11/2/62 [1 May 1983]
Pvt Falij Hasan Jaseem, base company and (manh) T185704, 11/2/62 [1 May 1983]

Pvt Sa'dun Kate' Jabr, code 1T421L10, 24/1/62 [13 April 1983]

Pvt 'Ali 'Abdolhoseyn Ghilan, code 1T421L10, 6/2/62 [26 April 1983]

Pvt Naser Ghilan-Ghavid, code T421L10, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Pvt Faleh 'Abdolsadeh Badivi, code 2T421L10, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt Khazir Hoseyn Navini, code 2T421L10, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt Hadi Gozar Salibi, code 2T421L10, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt 'Atshan Hamud Vali, code 2T421L10, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt Edi Eliyas Edi, code 1T108L1, 20/12/61 [11 March 1983]

Pvt Mohammad Heydar Hemadeh, code 1T108L1, 20/12/61 [11 March 1983]

Pvt Rahman 'Abbas Jasem, code 1T108L1, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Sharq Zitu Mohammad, code 1T108L1, 11/2/62 [1 May 1983]

Sgt 1st Class Haji Saleh Rafkhush, code 2T108L1, 10/2/62 [30 April 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Ebrahim Jabbar Hoseyn, code 2T108L1, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Mohsen Hazijan Razi, code 3T108L1, 10/2/62 [30 April 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Yusef Hashem Mehdi, Base Company and (Manh) T108, 8/2/62 [28 April 1983]

Sgt Maj Hajar Zarki Jabbareh, code 2T44L15, 26/12/61 [17 March 1983]

Pvt 'Abdollah Yunos Jerjis, code 2T44L15, 30/12/61 [21 March 1983]

Pvt Ezzoddin Khalaf Saleh, T96L1, 25/2/62 [15 May 1983]

Pvt Hovideh Hamed 'Alu, T96L1, 11/2/62 [1 May 1983]

Pvt Kurkis Behnam Jurjis, T96L1, 20/1/62 [9 April 1983]

Pvt Khaled 'Abolsalam, T96L1, 17/2/62 [7 May 1983]

Pvt Ghaleb-Olvan Khamis, code 3T48L15, 22/12/61 [13 March 1983]

Pvt Hoseyn Dazb Salmon, code 3T48L15, 8/2/62 [28 April 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Kazem Naser, code 3T48L15, 4/2/62 [24 April 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Gharib Musa-'Ali, code 1T48L15, 9/3/62 [30 May 1983]

Reserve Sgt 2nd Class 'Amer Musa 'Abbas, code 1T48L15, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Shaker Mahmud 'Abolvahed, code 1T48L15, 29/12/61 [20 March 1983]

Reserve Sgt 3rd Class Ebrahim Taher Sakar, code 2T48L15, 26/1/62 [17 March 1983]

Reserve Pvt Yahya 'Abd Mohammad, code 3T95L18, 27/2/62 [17 May 1983]

Pvt Akram Hasan Rashid, code 4T103L14, 11/12/61 [3 March 1983]

Pvt Jabbar Hasan Falij, code 4T103L14, 15/12/61 [7 March 1983]

Pvt Shaker 'Udeh Sakhi, code 4T103L14, 21/1/62 [10 April 1983]

Pvt Marvah Mota'eb Khalaf, code 4T103L14, 9/2/61 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Salam Emanuil 'Isa, code 3T418L1, 5/2/62 [25 April 1983]

Pvt 'Ali 'Abolvahed 'Atiyyeh, code 3T418L1, 10/1/62 [30 March 1983]

Pvt Yas Khazir 'Abbas, code 3T418L1, 30/11/61 [19 February 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolkarim Naser 'Ali, code 3T418L1, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Pvt Jaber Seyhud Ghazib, code 3T420L15, 21/12/61 [12 March 1983]

Pvt Samer Kazem 'Abud, code 101 medium artillery L1, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]

Sgt 'Aqil 'Abd Sahd, code 19 medium artillery L10, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolhoseyn 'Abdolameh Hatiyeh, code 3T113L11, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolhamreh Sorbat Jabur, code 3T113L11, 14/1/62 [3 April 1983]

Pvt Halal Adham Nahir, code 3T426L14, 3/2/62 [23 April 1983]

Pvt 'Ajil Jasem Hasan, code 3T426L14, 29/12/61 [20 March 1983]

Pvt Gate' Dardash 'Ali, code 1T422L14, 1/2/62 [21 April 1983]

Pvt 'Abbas Hadi Hasan, code 1T422L14, 21/2/62 [11 May 1983]

Pvt Mohammad 'Abud Lafteh, code 1T238L6, 10/2/62 [30 April 1983]

Pvt Khaled 'Abbas Habib, code 1T701L15, 13/12/61 [4 March 1983]

Pvt Khalaf Yas Khazir, commando forces L17, 23/2/62 [13 May 1983]

Pvt Salman 'Avid Yas, code 2T605L17, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Pvt Ahmad Hashem Khashan, ammunition center 2nd army (kut) center, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Sahri Sabri Haraz, code 3T235L6, 17/2/62 [7 May 1983]

Pvt Majid Hamid 'Ajil, code 2T436L14, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Mahavash Jamil Sahih, code 2T436L14, 28/1/62 [17 April 1983]

Pvt Salah Hari Hamari, code 1T418L8, 1/2/62 [21 April 1983]

Pvt Ebrahim Sa'd Ahmad, code 1T418L8, 24/12/61 [15 March 1983]

Pvt Ha'i Naghel Raham, code 2T28L10, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Azab Zoyni Rahman, code 2T28L15, 13/2/62 [3 May 1983]

Worker Mahmud Mahibas Farhan, employee in regiment 14 of developmental engineering L14, 21/2/62 [11 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Sami Mohsen Tayad, code 2T94L1, 4/2/62 [24 April 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Ali 'Abdolhoseyn Shafi, company 12, transportation L5, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Abbas Fazel Hamid, Khin identification code L5, 25/2/62 [15 May 1983]

Pvt Jabbar Qasem Matlag, Khin identification code L5, 17/2/62 [7 May 1983]

Pvt Ya'qub Yusef 'Alvan, communication code L5, 23/2/62 [13 May 1983]

Pvt Kan'an Morad Hoseyn, Mohammad ol-Qasem commando unit, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]

Pvt Dayekh Qalim 'Abud, Fima' commando unit L5, 27/2/62 [17 May 1983]

Pvt Khalaf Rashu Kalu, Fimad commando unit L5, 28/2/62 [18 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Gasad Sa'dun Hamid, Bora' Benmalek commando unit L1, 14/1/62 [3 April 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Abdolvahed 'Ali Habib, code 10 field artillery L7, 6/1/62 [26 March 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Adnan Jabbar Salmu', code 10 field artillery L7, 11/2/62 [1 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Abdol 'Amir Zubar 'Agil, combat engineering T36, 29/2/62 [19 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt 'Ali 'Abbas Jasem, code 3T604L2, 6/1/62 [26 March 1986]

Reserve Pvt Mohsen Mahal Badan, code 3T604L2, 20/2/63 [10 May 1983]

Pvt 'Ali Khalaf Jasem, commando company T36, 20/2/62 [10 May 1983]

Pvt Salam Hayavi Rafiq, combat engineering company T36L2, 6/1/62 [26 March 1983]

Reserve Pvt Khalil Ebrahim Fazel, code 3T26L2, 15/1/62 [4 April 1983]

Pvt (driver) Taleb Yunes Mohammad, code 250 medium artillery L18, 11/12/61 [2 March 1983]

Pvt Najm 'Idan Razi, code 250 medium artillery L18, 16/1/62 [5 April 1983]

Reserve Sgt 2nd class, code 2T422L14, 4/2/62 [24 April 1983]

Pvt Haji Rashu 'Omar, code 2T422L14, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Khalil Ebrahim Mohammad Saleh, communication code L1, 14/1/62 [3 April 1983]

Pvt 'Ali Kazem Jasem, code 28 field artillery L1

Pvt 'Enad Mashar Fahlul, code 8T 34 armored, 29/1/62 [18 April 1983]

Pvt 'Abdol Zahreh Karim, company 60 transportation L14, 21/2/62 [11 May 1983]

Pvt Karim Majid Jasam, Jasam commando company

Pvt Jamal Hamid Hoseyn, code 3T44L15, 23/2/62 [13 May 1983]

Pvt Hoseyn 'Ali Farhan, code 3T44L15

Pvt Shaker Mahmud Mohammad, code 3T44L15, 8/2/62 [28 April 1983]

Pvt Seyyedu Mohammad Khalu, code 2T417L2, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Pvt Ziya' Yasin Khazir, field gunnery code 240, L2, 27/2/62 [17 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Sami Ghadir 'Abd, code 2T39L7, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]

Pvt Mohammad Jamil Sayhud, code 2T39L7, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolkarim Jabbar Hasun, code 3T39L7, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]

Pvt Khaled Taleb Faras, T3 border guard L2, 26/2/62 [16 May 1983]

Pvt Qasem Bayesh Sanbal, operation branch L7, 18/2/62 [8 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Hatam Karim Hasun, operation branch L7, 17/2/62 [7 May 1983]

Sgt 3rd Class Karim Sa'dun Zayun, code 1T3 border guard L2, 24/2/62
[14 May 1983]

Pvt Valid Adam Dud, code 3T412L12, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Pvt Mohammad Esma'il Farhan, code 1T412L12, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Pvt Mohammad 'Abullah Hasan Ahmad, code 3T425L12, 17/2/62 [7 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Javad Kazem Ebrahim, code 3T425L12, 20/2/62 [10 May 1983]

Reserve Pvt Hashem 'Ali 'Abbas, code 3T425L12, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]

Pvt Naji Sakhil Zayul, code 3T606L12, 11/2/63 [1 May 1983]

Sgt Mohammad Latif Fardas, commando forces L17, 25/2/62 [15 May 1983]

Pvt Sabah Khalaf Ahmad, T96 infantry L1, 21/2/62 [11 May 1983]

Pvt Sa'id Mohammad 'Ajjel, T96 infantry L1, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Shaker Jom'eh Shajil, base code 186 L1, 28/2/62 [18 May 1983]

Pvt Faysal Adham Satam, base code 186 L1, 31/1/62 [20 April 1983]

Pvt Jasem Hamud Ahmad, code 2T27L1, 3/2/62 [23 April 1987]

Pvt Najer Dashar Shatri, code 2T27L1, 19/2/62 [9 May 1983]

Pvt Sami Hamud Taha, code 2T27L1, 15/12/61 [6 March 1983]

Pvt Farhan Jasem Kazem, code 2T27L1, 13/1/62 [2 April 1983]

Pvt Kazir Mohni Sahab, code 2T27L1, 18/12/61 [9 March 1983]

Pvt 'Ali Javad Kazem, code 2T27L1, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]

Pvt Sattar 'Ayed Taqi, Hatin commando force army 4, 27/2/62 [17 May 1983]

Pvt Sami 'Abd 'Ali, field repair shop 39 L17, 29/2/62 [19 May 1986]

Pvt Karim 'Abudeh Halil, 'Amar Ben Yaser commando unit, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Ghaleb Lafteh Za'lan, code 1T238L1, 7/2/62 [27 April 1983]

Pvt Ahmad Sa'id, code 1T238L1, 27/12/61 [18 March 1983]

Pvt 'Isa Hasan Hoseyn, code 2T94L14, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Habib Jasem Gate', code 2T94L14, 2/1/62 [22 April 1983]

Pvt Qasem Davud, code 2T94L14, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Pvt Nafe' Mehdi Hamzeh, code 1T15L5, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt Kazem Hamdan Hasan, code 3T15L5, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Pvt Jamil 'Abdoljalil, code 3T15L5, 27/2/62 [17 May 1983]

Pvt Ra'd Musa Kazem, code 10 tank L5, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt Hamid Soltan 'Abd, code 2T20L5, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]

Pvt 'Abdolkarim Shenishel 'Abd, code 2T20L5, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Fvt 'Abbas Rezvan Khashan, code 2T20L5, 20/2/62 [10 May 1983]

Pvt Mandil Hamdi Gatan, code 2T20L5, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]

Pvt Hasan Mohammad Moghames, Q company and communication T26 armored L5, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Pvt Karibat Salman Zahab, code 2T53 armored L5, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Pvt 'Ali Hamday Shahazeh, L5, 12/2/62 [2 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Khayun Hatam Darvish, gunnery 118 light antiaircraft L5, 23/2/62 [13 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Fazel 'Abbas 'Abdolnabi, field medical unit 8 L5, 22/2/62 [12 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class Mohammad Mohasen Sabah, company 12 transportation L5, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class 'Omar 'Abdullah Tofiq, communication code L15, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]

Sgt 2nd Class 'Emad Badravi Jabr, code 1T601L20, 16/2/62 [6 May 1983]

Pvt Monahi Zavid Kahub, code 1T603L20, 10/1/62 [30 March 1983]

Pvt 'Ali Shakil Farhud, code Eshbiliyeh tank L1, 24/2/62 [14 May 1983]

Pvt Najm 'Abud Ahmad, code 1T44L15, 11/12/61 [2 March 1983]
Pvt Javad Kazem Mohammad, code 1T44L15, 27/2/62 [17 May 1983]
Pvt 'Ali Ebrahim Rashid, code 1T44L15, 15/1/62 [4 April 1983]
Pvt Nabil Sahab 'Abdolhoseyn, code 1T14L20, 21/12/61 [12 March 1983]
Pvt 'Abdolhoseyn 'Ifan Javad, code Eshbiliyah tank L1, 25/2/62 [15 May 1983]
Reserve Pvt Karim Ziyun Jaseem, code 2T5 border guard, 9/2/62 [29 April 1983]
Pvt Sabih Hoseyn 'Abudi, code 2T5 border guard, 3/1/62 [23 March 1983]
Pvt Sabah Ebrahim Mohammad, code 3T5 border guard, 15/1/62 [4 April 1983]
Pvt Motir Naji Mohammad, code 3T5 border guard, 2/2/62 [22 April 1983]
Pvt 'Anid Muzan Yasin, code 3T49L11, 28/1/62 [17 April 1983]
Pvt Qasem Dandal Na'meh, code 3T49L11, 11/2/62 [1 April 1983]
Pvt Mohammad Nuri Karim, code 3T49L11, 11/2/62 [1 April 1983]
Pvt Mohammad Mostafa Qasem, code 2T95L18, 22/12/61 [13 March 1983]
Pvt 'Adel Karim Hardan, code 2T95L18, 4/1/62 [24 March 1983]
Pvt Zaki Davud Asvad, base company and communications TL1, 14/2/62 [4 May 1983]
Reserve Pvt Ya'qub Yusef Salman, code 2T14, 26/2/62 [16 May 1983]
Pvt Khazir 'Abbas 'Abud, code 2T103 border guard L14, 4/1/62 [24 March 1983]
Sgt 2nd Class Mohsen Najm Hadad, code 2T103 border guard L14, 10/2/62
[30 April 1983]
Sgt 3rd Class Sa'id Morad Mohammad, code 2T38L5, 10/1/62 [30 March 1983]
Pvt Razi Yusef Ja'far, code 2T14L1, 19/12/61 [10 March 1983]
Pvt 'Ali 'Abdolhoseyn Jaseem, code 2T14L1, 27/1/62 [18 March 1983]

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CSO: 4640/73

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARMENIAN ASSISTANCE TO WAR FRONTS OBSERVED IN CEREMONY

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Dec 86 p 2

[Text] In the ceremonies marking the popular assistance of the Armenians of Tehran to the battle fronts, which was held Thursday afternoon in the Armenian diocese of Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the representative of the imam in the Shahid Foundation, emphasized the need to continue the war to final victory and said: The reason why the leaders of global heathenism are humiliated and disappointed in the fate of the Ba'thist Saddam, lies in the united belief and faith of all the strata of our people, in the revolution. What we have before us is this unity and the necessary unity to achieve the sacred goals of the revolution.

According to an IRNA report, in these ceremonies, which took place in the presence of the families of the Armenian martyrs and a group of the representatives of the Majlis in Holy Sarkis Church, first Archbishop Ardash Manukian, the bishop of the Tehran Armenians, referred to the support of the Iranian Armenians for their Muslim brothers in the early days of the revolution as well as in the course of the imposed war and said: The Iranian Armenians have fought alongside their Muslim brothers on the battle fronts with all their resources and spiritual and material abilities. And the assistance of Armenian students and craftsmen to the fronts has been praised by the officials.

According to this report, after the speech of the Archbishop of the Armenians of Tehran, the head of the diocesan council of the Armenians of Tehran also spoke. Emphasizing the continuation of the unity of the Iranian nation to destroy the enemy, he referred to the recent heinous propaganda conspiracy of Italian television and said: This action, which shows the moral and political corruption of our enemies, is condemned by us and by any free human being. In the continuation of the ceremonies, the representative of the Armenians of the north and Tehran to the Majlis spoke. According to IRNA, then, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the representative of the imam in the Shahid Foundation and the deputy speaker of the Majlis, spoke and said: The secret of our victory is this continual assistance to the battle front. It is our people who give up their lives to help the fronts. Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi continued: The dignity and independence of our country is the result of such unity and self-sacrifice. It is a fact that we will conclude this imposed war with victory. Then, he referred to dispatching the Armenian craftsmen and the sending of

regular assistance to the fronts by the Armenians and said: By giving martyrs and wounded, both in the early days of the revolution and during the imposed war, the Armenian Iranians have, in fact, invested in this revolution.

The deputy speaker of the Majlis then referred to the humiliation of the United States and said: It is the unity and faith of our nation that has brought to such servitude the United States and Reagan, who announced in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] that they would sever relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: At the present, our enemies, the United States and Reagan, believe that nothing can be accomplished in the region against the wishes of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Karrubi expressed hope that the war would soon end with the victory of Islam, so that these Armenian craftsmen can engage in eliminating the existing shortages and deficiencies in the country. In conclusion, he referred to the recent conspiracies of the leaders of heathenism against the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: Recently, the propaganda media of the oppressors has conspired with the sinister goal of destroying the unity of our people, pretending that the arrest of a representative of the Jewish minority reveals the imposition of pressure on minorities in Iran. But, the nation knows the nature of these conspiracies and continues to safeguard its unity. He added: This assistance itself, which is given to the fronts with absolute willingness by the Armenians, shows that the nonsense by the Western propaganda agencies is a fabrication. The gifts of the Armenians include the following items needed at the fronts: 10 tractors, 2 differentials with complete spare parts, 15 automatic and semiautomatic "block zan" [as published], 1 ton of sugar halva, 1,800 pairs of gloves, 5,000 pairs of socks, 4,800 cans of preserves in 100 cartons and 500 heaters.

10,000
CSO: 4605/12

EGYPT

SOVIETS SEEK U.S. EXCLUSION FROM ASWAN WORK

PM301019 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jan 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Moscow Requests Nonparticipation of Americans in Repairing High Dam Turbines"]

[Text] Press sources have reported that the letter delivered by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo to Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid included proposals to reactivate an Egyptian-Soviet mediation to end the Gulf war. It also contained a Soviet emphasis that the Soviets alone must undertake repair operations on the [Aswan] High Dam turbines, without Americans penetrating the symbol of the Egyptian-Soviet friendship, so the Soviet letter says.

The letter also stressed that during February the Soviets will send a team of 26 Soviet experts, among them 12 of those who designed and supervised the implementation of the High Dam project in the sixties, to carry out technical inspections on the High Dam's turbines, which need repair, and that they will begin work if Egypt agrees.

/6091
CSO: 4500/64

AL-AHRAM ON HOSTAGES, U.S. MILITARY OPTION

NC060908 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)--AL-AHRAM newspaper has once again condemned all forms of terrorism, including the abduction of innocent civilians, which constitute barbaric acts that do not reflect the people's struggle or their right to resistance. The paper also stressed that resorting to the military option to confront such operations will ultimately increase tension and complicate any prospects for a solution to this issue. In this regard, the paper points to reports about a U.S. military build-up east of the Mediterranean and the possibility of intervention if the hostages crisis deteriorates.

In today's editorial, the paper notes that the only way out of this crisis is to return to its real roots. This is particularly true in view of the fact that it is impossible to talk about the possibility of striking at terrorism and extremism or confronting acts of blackmail, such as the taking of hostages, without undertaking positive steps to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue in general and to reach a balanced and acceptable formula for the Lebanese problem in particular.

The paper states that the current stalemate in the Middle East, the failure to reach a solution for the Palestinian issue, the continuation of the Gulf war, and the mounting struggle in Lebanon are all factors that create a suitable atmosphere for terrorism to grow. The paper warns the United States and all other international powers about the current stalemate. It calls on the United States to effectively and frankly support the peace efforts by announcing its direct approval without reservations to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East attended by the five major states and all the parties concerned, including the PLO. Such an overture by Washington, the paper adds, will create a golden opportunity to achieve a radical solution for the hostage issue, as well as other issues related to terrorism. It will also help the United States to restore its credibility in the Middle East, something which has been violently shaken in the wake of the scandal of U.S. arms shipments to Iran.

The paper warns the United States against thinking of military options to confront these provocations, which could have been initiated with the intention of compelling Washington to get involved in follies that will only increase tension in the region. The paper adds that such a military option represents an unpredictable adventure and the inability to understand the reality of the area's security situation. It will only increase tension and further damage U.S. credibility.

AL-AKHBAR WELCOMES REAGAN VIEW ON MIDEAST CONFERENCE

NC200814 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)--In Friday's edition, the AL-AKHBAR newspaper welcomes the statements made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan following his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington the day before yesterday. Reagan expressed Washington's readiness to discuss the idea of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

In its commentary, AL-AKHBAR sees these remarks as an important and positive development in America's Middle East policy. They come in the wake of statements by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who affirmed the necessity of discussing all ideas for achieving a solution and then choosing from among them.

This U.S. stand must have come as a shock to Shamir, who totally rejects the idea of holding an international conference, particularly in view of the fact that it conforms to a statement by Shim'on Peres, former Israeli prime minister and current foreign minister, in which he expressed full support for such a conference. Peres stressed that during his 2 and 1/2 year tenure as prime minister, his policy was to hold such a conference as a prelude to direct negotiations.

AL-AKHBAR expresses hope that during President Reagan's remaining time in office, the U.S. Administration will work to strengthen this stand and persuade its very close ally Israel to agree to hold such a conference, an idea which has widespread international support. AL-AKHBAR also expresses hope that the statements made by U.S. officials on this subject are not merely an attempt to recover the credibility which the United States severely damaged with the secret Iranian arms deal.

/9716
CSO: 4500/65

AL-AKHBAR: SHAMIR ALONE IN OPPOSING PEACE CONFERENCE

NC240507 Cairo MENA in English 2240 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, Feb 23 (MENA)--"AL-AKHBAR" newspaper pointed out that only Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the whole world is obstructing the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The text of the editorial in the paper's issue of tomorrow follows:

The talk has been increasing in the past few days about the idea of holding an international conference on Middle East peace after the American Government had shown understanding of the necessity of holding such a conference as a way to hold direct negotiations. This was expressed in a statement by U.S. President Ronald Reagan after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington. But two days ago Shamir made a curious statement, that holding such a conference would mean that the United States would lose its influence in the Middle East.

First of all, we say that nobody is opposing the convocation of this international conference except Yitzhaq Shamir alone. It is therefore regrettable that the current stalemate in the peace process should be due to one party, or let's say one part of a party, that rejects what all other parties have agreed on. All parties to the Middle East conflict have declared their support for an international peace conference; so did all international organizations, including the non-aligned group and the organization of Islamic conference, as well as the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Even in Israel itself, the international conference finds support, particularly by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

What is left then for action to begin on the road accepted by all parties: Is it Shamir's refusal? Was not Shamir part of the Israeli Government when Shim'on Peres, the then Israeli prime minister, declared in Alexandria his agreement to holding an international peace conference?

The Reagan administration has only one year before it is to take positive action, as the year after would be taken up in the presidential election. Unless efforts are made during this year to drive the United States to press Israel to accept the international conference, Israel would succeed in maintaining the present situation. This seems to be the highest hope, entertained by Shamir, the Israeli prime minister who considers peace as something repugnant.

Do we have to wait long for action to begin?

EGYPT

EDITORIAL VIEWS SHAMIR-PERES 'MUSICAL CHAIRS'

NC220600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)--In its editorial tomorrow, AL-AHRAM newspaper deals with the fluctuations in the Israeli stand on holding the international conference to solve the Middle East problem.

The paper says: The reason for this nonsense is the Israeli innovation that has made the prime minister and foreign minister play the game of musical chairs. It has made each one of them speak with a different tongue, background, and mentality because of the differences in their affiliations. The paper stresses that while they have the right to do so in their internal issues, the idea of the foreign 'commitment' which concerns others collapses under the weight of this clash.

AL-AHRAM notes that the idea of going to the electorate to find out their view of this principle in early elections is an Israeli affair. It objects, however, to the floating of this idea at this time, as this did not happen when the Foreign Minister was in the hands of the Likud and its leader.

It stresses that following up these responsible statements in this respect creates more surprise and astonishment. The entire issue, it says seems to go up and down at the appropriate times, as if it were merely an Israeli tool to activate or time the situations according to interests and circumstances, without regard to the presence of other parties directly concerned with the problem.

Concluding its editorial, the paper asks: If the mere idea of holding an international conference is being disregarded, then what about the actual convening of the conference, which is a long-term dream?

/9716
CSO: 4500/65

ISLAMIC LEADER ON ISLAMIC GROUPS, CAMP DAVID

JN241855 Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Feb 87 p 23

[Interview with Muhammad al-Muraghi, president of the Islamic Dawn Association [Jam'iyyat Fajr al-Islam] in Alexandria, Egypt, by Mustafa al-Qadi-- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qadi] Alexandria constitutes a special challenge for the Islamic propagation movement, being a port and a coastal tourist resort. Is this challenge not an obstacle facing Islamic groups?

[Al-Muraghi] This is true. Alexandria's location and its being a tourist site places it in a position to receive cultures from various parts of the world, including habits and traditions of Western countries, in addition to habits of certain Egyptian areas. Hence, Islamic groups here face problems resulting from its location as well as problems which other Egyptian Islamic groups are facing elsewhere in Egypt, given the behavior of those who arrive in the city. Therefore, the task of Islamic groups in Egypt is more difficult. However, God extends His assistance to them.

[Al-Qadi] Is it for this purpose that the Islamic Dawn Association was established, to build mosques in all parts of the city?

[Al-Muraghi] It was necessary to establish a leadership for Islamic action in Alexandria. Therefore, the Islamic Dawn Association was established and mosques of the Association are distributed in sensitive areas of the town. Under its own steam, the Association is working in accordance with a methodical plan under a board of directors and its members. Such action will no doubt strengthen Islamic groups and make them secure and well-guided.

[Al-Qadi] How do you view reports that the political decision of Islamic groups is subject to that of the financing state?

[Al-Muraghi] Anybody can see our political decisions by referring to the rules of the Koran and the Prophet's traditions. Those who say this must give evidence of what they say. They will find none. We tell them: If Islamic groups are subjected to the will of certain authorities, these authorities can control and contain them instead of oppressing them. The living conditions of these groups provide the best answer to these allegations.

If some wealthy Muslims contribute funds for propagating Islam, there is nothing wrong or shameful in this. Haven't wealthy Jews financed Israel? An Islamic group is not an official organization so contributions can be sent in its name. It is under the surveillance of security organs which are monitoring even its breathing. Those who raise these claims are worried by the Islamic awakening, so they try to level accusations against it.

[Al-Qadi] They say this Islamic awakening movement is due to al-Sadat's friendship with Islamic groups after the 1973 war. What do you say to that?

[Al-Muraghi] What I say will refute and silence them. The Islamic Dawn Association, through which an Islamic group propagates Islam, was dissolved by al-Sadat who arrested its members and tortured them. It was reactivated only after al-Sadat was killed and we went to court and were vindicated. Can we say now al-Sadat was behind the Islamic awakening movement? Al-Sadat knew that Islamic groups instigated the people against all of his actions following his decision to stop the war in 1973. The Islamic groups hoped the 1973 war would be the decisive war with Israel. The hostility between al-Sadat and the Islamic groups was aggravated following his visit to Israel and Islamic voices were raised in streets, universities, and mosques condemning the visit.

Indeed, Islamic groups were the first to criticize Jihan al-Sadat's behavior. This angered al-Sadat and his wife and made them hate the Islamic groups. When al-Sadat received the shah of Iran, Islamic groups protested and when al-Sadat said the Shah's funeral was an Islamic one, Shaykh Kishk made a speech refuting this claim, pointing out the Shah's funeral was a pharaonic rather than Islamic funeral. Islamic youths took up this idea and repeated Kishk's opinion in all mosques during al-Sadat's lifetime. We also assailed al-Sadat's erratic decision to prevent selling meat for 1 month. Can we say now al-Sadat and Islamic groups were friendly? What do we call hatred then? Their allegations are wicked.

[Al-Qadi] In your view, what is the idealistic relationship between ruler and [the people?].

[Al-Muraghi] The correct relationship between a ruler and the people is specified in Islamic rights and duties. The people should obey the ruler and implement his decisions and orders, but these orders and decisions should not be whimsical. The current relations between the ruler and the people is harmful to the people unjust because it is not based on Islamic principle. We always demand that the ruler and the people should know their duties and rights. All must work to realize this and it will not be realized unless by Islamic principles.

[Al-Qadi] Do Islamic groups resort to violence to realize this?

[Al-Muraghi] The Islamic community does not resort to violence because it obeys God's word: Call thou to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and good admonition, and dispute with them in the better way. [Koranic verse] Indeed, it is the Islamic community which asks the government not to use violence

but to use dialogue. Our rejection of violence is proved by the fact we did not use it against the hundreds of thousands of tourists who violate Islamic traditions on Alexandria beaches. The Islamic community calls for rejecting evildoing and preaches about what is right and what is wrong with forgiveness and gentleness. Those who want to remain misguided will bear the brunt of their action before God.

[Al-Qadi] Do Islami groups admit Camp David restored Sinai to Egypt?

[Al-Muraghi] You cannot possess anything if this possession is tied to certain conditions, if you are not free to use it the way you want. This was not realized in the restoration of Sinai in accordance with the Camp David agreement. Sinai was restored to Egypt as a demilitarized zone. The Tabah issue is the best proof of this.

[Al-Qadi] But Tabah was referred to international arbitration and Egyptian officials affirm the verdict will be in Egypt's favor.

[Al-Muraghi] Referring the Tabah issue to arbitration is more painful to Muslims than its occupation because occupation provides the people with the urge to regain it. To put our land up for international haggling and call this arbitration is an ignominious and humiliating act. Nevertheless, we know Israel is using Tabah as an impediment to divert Egypt's attention from its own problems. Israel is attacking Lebanon and the Palestinians. It also attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor and other places.

[Al-Qadi] Then what is the solution which can be an alternative to the government's involvement in fruitless negotiations with Israel, as you say?

[Al-Muraghi] The solution is Jihad. We have become the laughingstock of the whole world. We have reached such a condition that we cannot even condemn Israel or the United States if they attack an Arab country. The U.S. attack on Libya is a case in point. Why this laxness and impotency? It is because we abandoned Jihad. This vindicates the prophet's saying: Whoever a nation abandons Jihad it will be humiliated.

It is not true we cannot fight Israel. This is what al-Sadat said on the instruction of Zionism and the United States. Therefore, he stopped the battles at the peak of our victory on 16 October 1973. Then he announced he could not fight the United States to justify his action. But God says: Prepare for them the forces you can prepare. This means God will take care of other things. God said: I will create panic among the infidels.

Al-Sadat then announced his peace plan because the Arabs abandoned him, as he claimed. Even if this is true, Egypt is 50 million and Israel is 4 million. The Egyptian soldier is the best on earth. How could we accept making peace with Israel? Moreover, our president went to Israel in humiliation. It is a paradox that while al-Sadat said he wanted to spare the Egyptian people and youths war disasters, Egyptian youths are volunteering by the thousands to fight in Afghanistan. Sometimes they go to Lebanon to fight with certain political parties. However, the authorities prevented the youths from going for Jihad. Therefore, the Egyptian people reject the state of capitulation and refuse to be isolated from their Arab and Islamic causes. If the authorities allow the people to launch a Jihad, all problems will be solved.

ISLAMIC GUIDANCE SOCIETY LEADER INTERVIEWED

JN231404 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Feb 87 p 23

[Interview with Hafiz Salamah, leader of Egypt's Islamic Guidance Society, by Mustafa al-Qadi at al-Shuhada' Mosque in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qadi] When did you begin to be active in the field of Islamic propagation?

[Salamah] I began in the forties. I was no more than 20 years old when I joined the Muhammad Youth that was led by Husayn Muhammad Yusuf in 1984.

[Al-Qadi] Why do you not seek to establish a legal political party to avoid clashing with the authorities?

[Salamah] The parties law that has been enacted to serve private interests does not allow the establishment of parties on an ideological basis. The People's Assembly and the NDP oppose the Islamic trend formula because they fear the masses will rally around such a trend. They view the issue as one of power and posts and not as the freedom of a nation and its interests.

[Al-Qadi] Does the Islamic society approve the creation of political opposition parties?

[Salamah] If an Islamic government that applies the laws of God and the traditions of his prophet should come to power, then we would not need parties that oppose Islam because everyone would be satisfied. Islam guarantees freedom of expression. If there are views that aim to serve the interests of the nation then Islam adopts them, and if there are misguided views those who uphold them are persuaded to give them up without infringing upon their freedom. That is what we want the authorities to do, in accordance with God's words "Come now to a word common between us and you."
[Koranic verse]

[Al-Qadi] What about your Islamic activity now?

[Salamah] Security men follow me every step, and I cannot hold any meetings in any mosque in any part of Egypt. However, though my participation in the activities of the Islamic Guidance Society, I help to resolve some of the social problems in the city.

[Al-Qadi] What is your view of the Gulf war in which the blood of Muslims is being shed?

[Salamah] The war serves the interests of the Zionist enemy and the great powers are fanning it. We ask that the war, which is claiming the lives of both Iraqi and Iranian Muslims, be stopped by convening an Islamic summit acceptable to both parties. An Islamic jihad should be declared against the party that rejects the judgment of such a conference in accordance with God's words "Reconcile among them. If one party should attack the other fight the party that committed aggression until it returns to the right course." [Koranic verses]

[Al-Qadi] One last question. Do you agree to participate in the National front that is now being proposed in Egypt which will include all opposition forces?

[Salamah] By God, how can the Nasirites work with Wafdist, and the Islamicists with the secular Wafdist? Almighty God says: "You do not find those who believe in God and the hereafter friendly with those who opposed God and his messenger." [Koranic verse] If the National Front accepts that the word of God shall be the final word then we will be the first to join it.

/9716
CSO: 4500/65

AL-BAZ DISCUSSES SUMMIT, ARAB DEFENSE PACT

JN031208 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Feb 87 pp 1, 21

[Interview with Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, by Nabil Fahmi in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] [Fahmi] What is the importance of the visit to the UAE?

[Al-Baz] The importance of this visit lies in that it takes place after the fifth Islamic summit conference in Kuwait which discussed several issues of interest to the Islamic nation in general and the Arab nation in particular.

In his speech before the Islamic summit conference, President Mubarak focused on the need to reach a unified concept for the pan-Islamic security. The Islamic countries should agree on a common concept of security. Therefore, in light of touching on this issue at the Islamic summit, President Mubarak's contacts with some Gulf leaders are of a special importance in the Egyptian leadership's thoughts and heart. The relations between Egypt and the UAE, particularly between President Mubarak and each of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan and Vice President Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum have always been intimate relations of friendship, brotherhood, and sincere solidarity in the interest of the Arab issues. We believe that the present time is very important to safeguard the Islamic nation's security, culture, civilization, ideology, and political independence. Thus, President Mubarak's visit to one of the key Gulf states falls within this framework.

[Fahmi] What is your impression of the hospitality and the warm reception accorded to you and to the accompanying delegation?

[Al-Baz] President Mubarak is deeply grateful to the UAE people and to UAE President Shaykh Zayid for the great hospitality and warm reception which reflects the deep feelings of brotherhood between the two countries. This was clear on all levels, on the official level, on the senior states officials' level, and on the media level. The reception accorded to us was a warm reception. I believe that this visit will produce good and positive results, not only regarding the Egyptian-UAE relations, but also regarding Egypt's relations with all the Gulf states.

[Fahmi] What are the most important results of the visit?

[Al-Baz] There are several results. Some of them will become clear right after the visit, and others will appear after a certain period of time. The two leaders discussed some issues on which the Islamic summit conference made no decisions, and other Arab issues. I believe that the results of the visit will contribute to promoting cooperation between the UAE and Egypt in the political, economic, and cultural fields. All this will, of course, strengthen the Arab stand in the Gulf region which is of very sensitive importance.

[Fahmi] What is Egypt's stand toward the Collective Arab Defense Pact and the extent of its adherence to it?

[Al-Baz] Egypt is the Arab state which adheres the most to the Collective Arab Defense Pact due to the fact that it considers this pact as the safety valve for the entire Arab region, of which we are an essential part. It should be taken into consideration that all the Arab states should adhere to this pact and not only one state. It is true that Egypt is the biggest Arab state regarding its population and the size of its Armed Forces and their preparedness, but this does not mean that Egypt should bear these commitments alone. There must be a conviction that this pact stipulates the commitment of all the member states. Therefore, all the member states should assume their responsibilities.

[Fahmi] What is the relationship between the Egyptian national security and the pan-Arab security in general and the Gulf security in particular?

[Al-Baz] Egypt considers itself part of the Arab homeland. This is not mere talk or rhetoric, but a basic part of a theory related to the pan-Arab security. Our viewpoint is that the Egyptian national security is part of the pan-Arab security. Therefore, Egypt considers that any disruption of the pan-Arab security is a disruption of its security, and this necessitates that all measures be taken to confront dangers against the Arab nation. However, regarding the Gulf states, there are two additional major considerations which urge us to apply this theory in a more decisive manner. These two considerations are: The good relations between Egypt and these states and the cooperation between the two sides in the past and the possible cooperation in the future. The second consideration is based on the fact that the Gulf region is of great strategic importance due to its strategic location in western Asia and the Gulf, and due to the clear ambitions of foreign forces in this region. All this gives great importance to the Gulf region's security. In fact, we give this issue great priority. Among the objectives of President Mubarak's visit to the UAE was to discuss these concepts and to directly get acquainted with the situation in the region.

[Fahmi] How do you assess the Egyptian-Arab relations, and is there any possibility for the restoration of diplomatic relations?

[Al-Baz] We do not attach great importance to the restoration of diplomatic relations. We believe that the existence of strong relations on the official and nonofficial levels and the convenience of contacts is more important than

diplomatic relations. What we are interested in is true Arab solidarity and not mere slogans. We are also interested in ending all forms of estrangement between Egypt and any part of the Arab homeland. The restoration of diplomatic relations comes on time. In this regard, we must not forget that Egypt adopts a genuine and fraternal stand toward Iraq and the Iraqi people in the war, taking into consideration that diplomatic relations are still severed between Iraq and Egypt while diplomatic relations have not been severed between Iraq and Iran. Perhaps this clarifies the whole subject.

[Fahmi] What is Egypt's stand toward developments in the Iran-Iraq war?

[Al-Baz] It is clear that Iran has not been and will not be able to penetrate the Iraqi front militarily. We still believe that there will be no victor or vanquished in this war. There are heavy Iranian losses in life and equipment and Iran is impotent to achieve a large-scale penetration of the Iraqi front which would cause its collapse. Regrettably, it is clear that this war will continue and become a war of exhaustion that would eat up the two sides' resources, and make the human, economic, and psychological suffering continue. There is economic exhaustion of the two countries' resources, and there is also a psychological exhaustion of the two countries' peoples expressed by the instability, the lack of security, and impotence to foresee the future as a result of the continuation of the war.

[Fahmi] What is Egypt's stand toward the U.S. military aid to Iran?

[Al-Baz] We believe that this action was a big U.S. mistake. Part of this mistake was that some of the U.S. officials who were responsible for this are inexperienced and lack knowledge of these matters. The other part is that Israel has played a big role in dragging the U.S. policy to serve the Israeli interests and to provoke Iraq. This was also an Israeli attempt to weaken the Arab nation by all means. It is clear that the Israeli politicians believe that the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war serves Israel as long as any attempt to weaken the Arabs is in Israel's interest.

This action has led to weakening confidence in the United States in the entire Middle East, in several parts of the world, and in the United States itself. To be frank with you, one has become impotent to understand the U.S. policy. The only understandable thing is that the United States has lost a great deal of its credibility.

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CSO: 4500/64

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY REACHES AGREEMENT WITH IMF

PM021153 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jan 87 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Agreement Between Egypt and IMF"]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that an agreement in principle has been concluded between the Egyptian Government and the IMF's mission headed by Dr 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, director of IMF's operations in the Middle East. The agreement allows for the provision of a loan to Egypt totaling \$2.5 billion over the next 3 years. The Board of IMF and World Bank Directors met in Washington last October to discuss the Egyptian Government's "letter of intent." The board also discussed European governments' assurances that they would help Egypt during its current economic crisis. The rescheduling of civil debts in arrears and installments due within the next 3 years is expected to be effected through an international conference for debtor countries to be held in Paris next April. The debts total \$12 billion.

The government declared in the "letter of intent" its acceptance of IMF proposals urging economic reform in Egypt within specified schedules. An announcement of new economic decisions is expected next month, including effective measures to reduce the monetary budget deficit, reduce direct and indirect subsidies, standardize the Egyptian pound's exchange rate against foreign currencies, and raise interest rates on domestic loans. The fund had abandoned some of its terms in return for Egypt's commitment to conform with other terms in order to reform the economic course in Egypt.

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'ABD-AL-MAJID DENIES CHANGE IN POLICIES

LD311447 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 31 (KUNA)--Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has praised Kuwait's stance in support of Egypt's return to the Organization of Islamic Conference and denied any change in Cairo's policies after the recent meeting between the Syrian and Egyptian Presidents on the sidelines of the Kuwait Islamic Summit.

Addressing a press conference yesterday at the Egyptian interests section here, Al-Majid renewed Egypt's support to the PLO and the call for an international Mideast peace conference attended by all parties, including the PLO and reasserted that Cairo would not abrogate the Camp David accords signed with Israel.

About the meeting, during the summit, between President Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, the official said the encounter was not pre-arranged but rather a casual formality, adding that it is wrong to derive a conclusion of an Egyptian policy shift as a result of the meeting.

The Egyptian official maintained it would be fruitless to hold an Arab summit at this time, saying it will have a negative impact at a time all are keen on success of the Islamic summit, including the host country, Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Majid made note of the meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, during which agreement was reached to reactivate the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for economic rehabilitation of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He hailed the step as a big gain to the Palestinian cause and a breakthrough in more than one year of deadlock in relations between Amman and the Organisation.

Despite opposition by some states, he said Egypt accepted the challenge and took part in the Kuwait summit where 15 countries welcomed Egypt's presence and stance, adding that Egypt did not ask for resumption of diplomatic ties "but those who severed them should take the step of restoring these relations".

Egypt will not scrap the Camp David accords with Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict is not an exclusive Egyptian responsibility, 'Abd-al-Majid stressed in conclusion.

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AL-AHALI VIEWS MOTIVES OF MUBARAK'S REFERENDUM DECISION

JN151313 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "So the President Will Be Nominated by an Assembly Elected by the People, not Gangsters and Forgers"]

[Text] The general public satisfaction with President Mubarak's decision to call a referendum on dissolving the People's Assembly only means that the opposition parties were right when they described the law, under which the 1984 elections were held, as unconstitutional and when they expressed the opinion that those elections had neither expressed the Egyptian people's opinion nor represented their real trends.

At the same time it is only fair to appreciate the motives that prompted President Mubarak to make his decision. The president wants to be nominated for a second presidential term by an assembly that represents the people, not an assembly that was elected by the gangsters of the ruling party and that lost the people's respect and confidence over the past 2 years. This of course means that the president cares for the people's confidence and wants a continuation of the wave of optimism that surrounded him when he took over power. These motives deserve our appreciation.

We were among those who said that the rigging of the 1984 elections had completely done away with the hope for democratic change--the objective that led to despair and later to the assassination of al-Sadat, thereby placing the entire country on the brink of the abyss. If time has now confirmed our predictions, our duty to the homeland and the people and our respect for the president call on us to say: The general public satisfaction with the president's decision to hold the referendum is an indication which must be heeded if Mubarak is determined to become the president of all Egyptians and to win the people's confidence and sympathy.

It was a first step on the correct path. However, that step will lose its meaning if it is not followed by other steps such as holding the elections in a true democratic atmosphere and under a neutral government and provincial governors with free conscience--elections whose procedures are supervised from beginning to end by a judicial body and organized by a democratic law that is not questioned constitutionally; elections in which equal opportunities for campaigning are given to all parties and which are preceded by the freedom to form parties and to publish newspapers without restrictions.

The president's wish to nominate himself for a second term of office will not be fulfilled by an election that is held under an interior minister who since coming to power has not ceased threatening the opposition. This wish also will not be fulfilled by keeping the situation that led to the 1984 election tragedy as it is.

We assure the president that we would very much like him to be nominated by an assembly that represents all political groups and social classes of the Egyptian people. We will be very angry indeed if the 1987 elections resulted in his nomination by an assembly that had been elected by forgers and gangsters.

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CSO: 4500/65

AL-AKHBAR CALLS FOR 'CLEAN, HONORABLE' ELECTIONS

JN171113 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Editor in Chief Sa'id Sumbul entitled: "A Difficult Contest"]

[Text] All signs indicate that the forthcoming election campaign will be difficult, with parties and independent candidates competing fiercely. For its part, the National Democratic Party will try to obtain more seats in the People's Assembly to prove that it enjoys the support of the majority and that the presence of the opposition in the political arena will not affect its popularity or the support of the majority. For their part, the opposition parties will try to stress their importance in these elections, especially the parties which were deprived of representation in the dissolved People's Assembly by failing to win 80 percent of the votes.

During the term of the dissolved People's Assembly, the opposition parties' papers have repeatedly said that the majority supports the opposition and that in any forthcoming election, the Egyptian citizens will realize the weight of the opposition parties in the Egyptian street. What makes the forthcoming election campaign special and enthusiastic is that independent candidates will be allowed to stand for election away from party tickets. This was banned under the old election law. The independent candidates this time may differ greatly from the independent candidates of previous elections. The areas of the independent constituencies are now larger than before. Therefore, the candidate has to have great resources and immense wealth to win an election in a constituency of 1 million people. At present, 48 constituencies are reserved for independent candidates all over Egypt. The various political parties have also announced that they will contest the elections in these constituencies by nominating their own independent candidates. This will also increase the competition and fierceness of the election campaign.

We have all experienced errors and transgressions in the various elections. Such things take place during all elections. They are not necessarily committed by the administration or by those supervising the elections, they are sometimes committed by the supporters of the candidates themselves in the various constituencies. Every citizen hopes that we will benefit from the current democratic climate in order to take steps forward instead of retreating backward. Every citizen hopes that we will abandon backward party life and welcome the nonparty system which imposed itself on the Egyptian

political arena for a long time and which has gone for good as a result of President Husni Mubarak's presence at the head of the government.

The party leaders in Egypt are required to be an example to candidates and voters in the forthcoming elections, they are required to rise above trivialities and disputes, and to elect the best people for the new assembly and ignore the negative elements of which the citizens are unaware. This responsibility rests with the majority party rather than the opposition parties. Many of the previous majority representatives did not attend the assembly sessions. These people should be kept away from the majority party tickets even though they enjoy influence in their constituencies. The Egyptian citizens want true representatives, not pieces of furniture.

The Egyptian citizens are looking forward to a clean, honorable campaign, taking the public welfare into consideration and rising above personal interests. They want a campaign that will respect their opinion and will, a campaign in which the majority does not become a dictator and the minority does not become a terrorist group, and a campaign that supports the legitimate system established on supporters and opponents.

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CSO: 4500/65

AL-AHALI CRITICIZES 'FORGERY' IN ELECTIONS

JN211815 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 18 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Forgers, 1987"]

[Text] Following the issuance of his order to dissolve the People's Assembly, President Husni Mubarak made a statement in which he stressed the importance of making the next People's Assembly justly and correctly represent the will of the millions, expanding the circle of participation in sound democratic development, and enabling all citizens, whether they be party members or independents, to practice their right to representing the people.

Despite the welcome and support given this call, public opinion, which we are part of, realizes that there is a contradiction between what the president said on Sunday evening and many facts being experienced by everyone interested in politics and every simple citizen.

The citizens who welcomed disbanding the People's Assembly, which was a rigged council and which did not represent their interests, are sure that the 6 April 1987 elections will be rigged. The heritage of the NDP since 1979, the recent Consultative Council elections, and the side that has continuously been a major role in the election process--such as Zaki Badr, Ahmad Salamah, Yusuf Wali, 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-din--do not enjoy any confidence as a result of previous experiences.

What confirms this view are two consecutive events:

1. The statements made by President Mubarak before the referendum committee last Thursday in which he rejected the preliminary guarantees requested by the opposition parties which call for the electoral role and the civilian record to be identical, for using identification cards when voting, for signing next to the name of the elector when voting, and for the intensification of punishment when a forgery takes place...etc. He also rejected the idea of a neutral government and compared Egypt and the western democracies. He then discussed the 27 May 1984 elections as if they were just!

The citizens did not understand the president's rejection of the voting guarantees of which no one disapproves. They explained this as certain, premeditated forgery that will take place. They did not accept his rejection of the neutral government and the comparison he made in this regard

with the West because this comparison jumps over reality. He also ignored the fact that under the multi-party system, before the revolution, and after 1976, Egypt enjoyed free elections only on rare occasions. He also ignored the fact that the current government undertook forgery as a profession. What complicated the situation was his discussion of the honesty of elections which took place in 1984, elections which everyone knows are an example of forgery.

2. Every sane man knows that the results of the referendum which Zaki Badr announced last Thursday were untrue. No more than ten percent--that is one million and several thousand--of the people went to the referendum polls. The interior minister, who will hold the People's Assembly elections, says 11,008,374 voted. This implies that all Egyptians registered on electoral records and living in Egypt, including the sick, the dead, and the Army recruits, participated in the voting.

These regrettable facts make us say that the direct forgery--rather than the official forgery on the bases that any party winning 8 percent of actual votes is elected, the unconstitutional election law, and the ruling party's domination of the information media and press--is coming.

In spite of all this, we would like to tell the president that the chance to stop this forgery by responding to the legitimate demands of the honest in Egypt is not lost. We would also like to tell the citizens that they are capable of defending forgery through adopting positive positions and through their determination to protect their votes. We support them regardless of the price.

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PAPER REGRETS ELECTION 'MISSED OPPORTUNITY'

PM191141 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Feb 87 pp 4, 7

[Dr Wahid Ra'fat article: "A Golden Opportunity Missed"]

[Excerpts] The dispute between the opposition parties and the ruling NDP was not in the first place over whether or not the present People's Assembly should remain or vanish. Indeed it concerns something more important, namely the election system on the basis of which elections for a new People's Assembly and for other representative councils such as the Consultative Council and the local councils are to be carried out. Everybody must realize that all the election systems applied in our country at present are imported. They may be suitable for other world countries but they are not necessarily suitable for our people and our society, in which there is an alarmingly widespread illiteracy both in the countryside and in urban areas and where political consciousness is still in its early stages following an enforced period of "hibernation" that lasted more than a quarter of a century.

The man who imported these systems and imposed them on the people was the late prime minister and leading NDP figure Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din, who passed away a few days after the May 1984 elections which produced the present People's Assembly. Last Wednesday the citizens, or the majority of them, were surprised by a presidential decision suspending the Assembly's activities preparatory to dissolving it, so that it can disappear without its disappearance being regretted.

For this reason the people have welcomed the president's decision to hold a public referendum on whether to dissolve or retain the assembly and to hold new elections within 60 days of the date when the referendum result is announced, in accordance with Article 136 of the constitution. The people welcomed this decision not only for the reason given by the president of the republic, namely to benefit from the new December 1986 amendments to the 1983 People's Assembly Law 114, the constitutionality of a number of whose provisions are contested, but indeed because the people from the outset were not quite satisfied with this assembly because of the rigging and falsification of the voters' wishes involved in its election in May 1984 as well as because of the undemocratic behavior of the assembly speaker. All of which prompted some politicians to describe it as the worst assembly the country has known in its democratic life.

Having decided to get rid of this assembly, as his predecessor President Anwar al-Sadat in April 1979 got rid of the assembly elected in October 1976, President Mubarak had before him a golden opportunity to consolidate democracy and set it moving in the right direction through a popular referendum not only on dissolving the present People's Assembly but also on the election system under which the next elections should certainly be held for the new People's Assembly, the new local councils in the coming months, and the New Consultative Council on a party basis. The people should be polled on whether they prefer:

1. the individual election system in small constituencies that was followed in our country until 1980 for all parliamentary and local elections;
2. elections on the basis of absolute party lists, as followed in the election of the Constituent Council and the local councils since 1980; or
3. the proportional party list system, introduced for the first time in Egypt under Law No. 114 concerning the People's Assembly elections once rid of its constitutional imperfections and faults.

The natural preparation for the comprehensive referendum, which we would have hoped the president of the republic would carry out, would be an educational campaign on radio and television and in other media in order to help the masses to understand and compare these electoral systems, so that their choice would be sound and would be based on a full understanding of the options put to them, as happens in civilized countries when the people are polled on important issues affecting their life or future. Had this been the case we would have concurred with what NDP Assistant Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali told AKHBAR AL-YAWM--that this is truly a "crowning of democracy" and a consolidation of its bases--and we would at the same time have ended the long-standing dispute over our election systems and over which was best for our people, our local conditions, and our democracy. But unfortunately they have missed this golden opportunity and been content with the outer shell. What benefit can be derived from dissolving the present People's Assembly if the new assembly is going to be elected on the basis of a proportional party lists system that is still defective and whose constitutionality is contested. This is so despite the partial amendment that was introduced with amazing speed in December 1986. The number-one responsibility for wasting this golden opportunity lies with the "men around the president" who, in my view, did not advise him sincerely. This is a source of concern for all the opposition parties and the people in general. The artificial gap between the presidency and the opposition is widening because of those men. Some of them seek to make the president believe that responding to the demands of the people as represented by the parties is a kind of surrender and submission to arm-twisting. This is far from the truth. The head of state in a democratic country is the true servant of the people. Responding to the people's rightful demands is the epitome of democracy, a safety valve, and it promotes stability. For the head of state to respond to the people is quite natural and not a subject for dispute in a sound democratic system. Whoever depicts things to the contrary, depending on the army's strength and police oppression, is sowing the seeds of sedition, against whose evils God protect us. May God guide us to wisdom, solidarity, and sincere cooperation among all factions of the people and on all levels so as to rebuild this homeland, which is in dire need of the efforts of all its sons.

AL-SHA'B ANALYZES ABU-GHAZALAH SPEECH ON FORCES' ROLE

PM050937 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jan 87 p 8

[Article by Dr Mahjub 'Umar: "Reading Into the Marshal's Statement"]

[Excerpts] In the statement he delivered at the joint meeting of the Arab and International Affairs Committee and the Defense and National Security Committee at the People's Assembly on 12 January Defense Minister Marshal Abu-Ghazalah announced that "Egyptian military policy is aimed at preserving the independence of the state and the integrity of its borders and safeguarding its territorial integrity and national interests. It is also committed to the peace treaty in order to exploit peacetime for building and arming the armed forces and raising the standard of performance and developing it, to safeguarding navigation in the Red Sea, to affirming Egypt's Arab, African, and Islamic role, and to giving aid to the friendly states..." (AL-AHRAM 13 January)

The official newspapers contented themselves with publishing this brief extract and the nonofficial papers were asked to do the same. There is no doubt that Marshal Abu-Ghazalah spoke in greater detail and answered questions by deputies.

Of course it is natural that a defense minister's statement before legislative committees in any country should not be made public particularly if he was going to reveal secrets pertaining to armament or future military plans or to a particular incident about which the state does not wish to create an international debate.

There is no doubt that the Egyptian leadership estimated that Marshal Abu-Ghazalah's statement falls within this category, a fact which lends a special importance to what has been published and prompts contemplation of the meaning of the words, which no doubt were selected with great care.

It is natural for the state's military policy to be aimed at "preserving its independence and security and securing its borders." Although these terms may appear to be general they are definitive and are provided for in constitutions and laws. But the tasks that Marshal Abu-Ghazalah added were "securing its territorial integrity and national interests." Obviously, Egypt's territorial integrity reaches the Arab Gulf in the east, the

Atlantic in the west, the Turkish mountains in the north, and the central African mountains in the south. This is confirmed by the fact that the statement mentions the territorial integrity together with national interests.

The meaning of the phrase "giving aid to friendly countries" is clear, of course, although it is certainly open to wider interpretation and the form of aid may vary. The present situation on the Iraq-Iran borders may not be the sole motive behind this statement. This interpretation could open the door to the possibility of giving aid to whoever may be the target of attack by Israel, such as Syria and Jordan, or to those who are actually being attacked by Israel, that is Lebanon and Palestine. It is the national duty of the Egyptian forces to offer such aid in defense of Egypt's national interests, as the statement said.

There remains another general term in the statement pertaining to the peace treaty and adhering to it "in order to exploit the peace period for building and arming the armed forces and raising the level of performance and developing it."

Of course nobody expects the defense minister to declare noncommitment to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, but it is possible to interpret "commitment" in such a way that it would ensure that these agreements will not become shackles restricting the independent political, economic, and military will.

It is to be pointed out, not by way of comparison, that the terrorist Shamir declares Israel's commitment to the Camp David agreements and yet at the same time continues to plant Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab land in Palestine, attack Lebanon, and occupy the Golan Heights. He is using the Camp David agreements as a cover for everything he is doing and yet continuously declares his commitment to them. All that is required from the Egyptian leadership is only to impose its own interpretation of the agreements and to consider any departure from them by Israel as tantamount to abrogating or, at least, freezing these agreements.

In fairness it must be said that Marshal Abu-Ghazalah's statement did point to the motives for adhering to the "peace" treaty when he said that this was in order "to exploit the period of peace for building and arming the armed forces and raising the standard of performance and developing it." He has thus rectified the common misconception that "the peace which the agreements have achieved" is a lasting peace and that there will be no more wars. He has also corrected the prevalent misconception among some media men and propagandists regarding the possibility of reconciliation and coexistence between a living body--the body of the Arab homeland--and a cancerous body--the Zionist entity.

Building and arming the armed forces and raising and developing the level of their performance is a duty; it is one of the first priorities of every government in order to protect its independence. It is an action that is not different from building social and moral power among the people and

particularly the young. Therefore what the statement said is no doubt a directive to the media which is blowing the trumpets of the American friend and the Israeli friend and presenting the enemy as if he were a friend, thereby weakening national awakening and patriotic zeal.

The reasons given by the statement for adherence to the peace treaty mean that there is a need to revise the agreements for which no fixed period has been set and which in fact have restricted the Egyptian will as regards giving aid to the brothers and exposing the enemy's plans to the citizens. Also the view of "preparedness" during the time of peace is bound to lead to the reevaluation of the Arab forces that have not yet concluded peace with Israel and are still fighting it. Of particular importance here is the role of the Palestinian fighter, who "during the period of peace," according to the statement, is helping to harass and weaken the Israeli enemy and expose him before world opinion so that he will not benefit from this period.

Finally, it is the right of the ordinary citizen to ask questions. Does this not come to the mind of the Egyptian leadership? Of course it does. These thoughts must be on the mind of the leadership, thoughts that are reflected in Marshal Abu-Ghazalah's carefully selected words. But the problem is that these thoughts and words are still within the confines of the ruling groups and are not publicly put to the people, even if only in order to mobilize their forces and raise their enthusiasm. Mobilizing the people's moral power and throwing it behind the armed forces is no doubt one of the most important factors for success, as all military men know. When the matter concerns national independence the people are ready for sacrifice.

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AL-MAHDI CONFERS WITH ABU-GHAZALAH, 'ABD AL-MAJID

NC212028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb MENA)--Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received at his place of residence at al-Tahirah Palace today Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. He also received Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abd-al-Majid said after the meeting that he felt a complete understanding and identity of views on the various issues that concern the two countries. He described the brotherhood charter that was signed today as a step toward solidarity between Egypt and Sudan. He also noted the visit was successful, stressing that this is the feeling of every Egyptian and Sudanese.

Replying to correspondents' questions, 'Abd al-Majid underlined Egypt's support for the Sudanese initiative on solving the Chadian problems, as well as Egypt's hopes for its success so that Chad's safety and unity might be maintained. The foreign minister also stressed Egypt's desire for stability in Chad and pointed out that Egypt has constantly called for reconciliation among the Chadian parties. He added that both Sudan and Egypt are interested in the stability of the Chadian situation, particularly Sudan, since it shares a border with Chad.

Replying to another question, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that coordination of foreign policy between the two countries, as explained by the brotherhood charter signed today, will proceed as far as possible. He added that the uniqueness of the Egyptian-Sudanese relationship has no equal among Arab or Islamic countries; it is a uniqueness peculiar only to the two countries.

Regarding the southern Sudan problem, 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt is willing to undertake any action demanded by the Sudanese which would contribute to stability in the south and be in the better interests of Sudan. He stressed that Egypt is striving with all its efforts to protect Sudan's unity, safety, and linkage between the north and south, but noted that this issue concerns Sudan and the Sudanese.

Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also received this evening Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

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MUBARAK ADDRESSES SYMPOSIUM ON GULF WAR

NC121634 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)--President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has reiterated his warning that the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war endangers the security of all the Gulf and Islamic countries. He called on Iran to heed calls for peace, stop the fighting, and seek a peaceful settlement.

In a message which he addressed today to the International Symposium on Ending the Gulf War [organized by AAPSO in collaboration with the WPC] President Mubarak hailed Iraq's constructive position and its endorsement of all international initiatives aimed at ending the war, and all international appeals for peace.

In his message, which was read out to the symposium by Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the AAPSO Egyptian Committee, President Mubarak said that Egypt's stand on this war had been clear since the beginning. The president stated that during the recent ICO summit Egypt had deplored the ravaging effects of the war and had expressed concern over the danger posed to Islamic and Gulf states by the continued fighting.

This is the text of President Mubarak's message to the symposium:

The initiative of your respected organization in calling an international symposium on ending the Iraq-Iran war was well-timed. The escalation in the Gulf is taking its toll of young, innocent lives, and of cities and installations that could otherwise contribute to the development of both countries.

Egypt's stand has been clear right from the beginning. I have repeatedly warned against the perils of this war. Most recently, I told the ICO summit in Kuwait that the scale of devastation is such that we cannot afford to be indifferent onlookers. Condemnation and denunciation of the fighting in such a strategic area are no longer enough. The killing of a whole generation of Iraqis and Iranians is unacceptable to God and man. The war is threatening the security of all brotherly countries in the Gulf and is causing cracks in the security structure of all Muslim states. We, in Egypt, cannot ignore or overlook Iraq's constructive stance in accepting all the international initiatives aimed at halting this ferocious war, and in responding to the call for peace and the efforts of the United Nations, the ICO, and the Non-aligned Movement.

At the same time, we urge the Islamic republic of Iran to respond to the call for peace contained in the holy Koran: But if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace [Koranic verse]. Truly God almighty has spoken. We urge Iran to agree to stop the bloodshed and to settle the conflict through peaceful means, in accordance with international resolutions and the relative documents and treaties. I believe that the serious discussions taking place in this symposium--where the various aspects of the conflict are being discussed with a view to exploring ways of resolving it and ending the bloody fighting between Iraq and Iran--constitute a positive and constructive step in the right direction. They will help to spread awareness of the numerous hazards which threaten not only Iran and Iraq but also world peace and the solidarity and peace of the developing countries, and which exhaust their resources and impede their progress and development.

In its symposium message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, AAPSO appealed to the two leaders to halt the ongoing war between their two countries. It asserted that the continuation of this war means devastation, destruction, and annihilation of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. The message noted that the Iraqi and Iranian peoples do not support this war, which threatens peace and stability in the two countries, as well as in the Gulf and the world as a whole.

AAPSO proposed a number of suggestions for ending this war to the two countries' governments, foremost of which are the signing of a peace accord between the two countries, referral of their dispute to an international arbitration committee, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The organization also expressed its confidence that Iraq and Iran would share the international community's desire for peace, which must prevail for the good of mankind.

In a message addressed to the seminar, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asserted that events prove beyond any doubt that Iraq did not start the war and does not want it to continue. Since the new regime took power in Iran in 1979, Iraq has been trying to establish normal relations between the two countries based on mutual respect and non-interference in one another's internal affairs.

The Iraqi president added that the Iranian regime has arrogantly rejected all these efforts. It has adopted a hostile policy in the form of violations of Iraqi territorial rights and threats to its security and safety, finally launching an armed aggression on Iraq on 4 September of last year [1986].

In spite of Iranian armed aggression, he stated, Iraq did not forget to offer peace to the Iranians. We also declared a unilateral cease-fire for 5 days in November 1980.

Saddam Husayn pointed out that Iraq relentlessly continued its efforts to establish peace with a just and honorable settlement that would guarantee the rights and interests of both peoples according to international law.

He said that all the efforts made by the UN Security Council, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement, as well as all mediation attempts to reconcile the

two sides, have failed because of the Iranian regime's stubbornness and persistence in continuing the war under the declared goal of occupying Iraq and imposing Iranian hegemony over it. This has aggravated the afflictions of the war, made the destruction greater, and escalated threats to regional and international peace and security.

President Saddam Husayn expressed the hope that wisdom would succeed in ending the war and bringing about the peace sought by all people, including the Iranians. He also welcomed the principles and rules mentioned in the message addressed by AAPSO to establish peace and justice between Iraq and Iran. He noted that all this stems from a sense of responsibility and from the unchanged Iraqi policy. He recalled here that Iraq addressed an open message to Iranian rulers on 2 August 1986, which contained rules and principles essentially similar to those mentioned in the AAPSO message.

AAPSO Secretary General 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi addressed the symposium, saying that the aim of the gathering is to discuss the Gulf war and find a way to stop the senseless fighting. All that the war has achieved, he stated, is the destruction of life, civilization, and human resources. No one stands to gain from it, he declared, but the common enemy of both countries. The havoc caused by this war is undermining, among other things, the very rights of the Palestinian people. Al-Sharqawi added that the U.S. and Israeli arms sales to Iran are consistent with Israel's schemes to debilitate the Arab liberation forces. He concluded by calling on all peace-loving forces and nations to bring pressure to bear to end this war and uphold peace and justice.

Romesh Chandra, chairman of the WPC, made a speech in which he thanked Egypt for hosting the symposium, which seeks to establish peace. He said it is not surprising that this gesture should come from Egypt, which views the issue of peace as a just cause. He noted that Egypt participated in the establishment of the Nonaligned Movement, which is a governmental peace movement. He added that AAPSO and the WPC are also peace movements, working in collaboration with Egypt which has undergone great ordeals. He said it was only natural to hold this symposium on Egyptian soil, since the Egyptians are working for peace.

Romesh Chandra went on to say that the Gulf war, raging between two brotherly countries like Iran and Iraq, is inseparable from other international issues. We are all fighting for the Palestinians' right to self-determination and their right to establish a state of their own, he stated.

He remarked that those who stand to gain from the Gulf war are the same powers that support Israel in denying the Palestinians their legitimate rights. He emphasized that the so-called Irangate scandal provides the best evidence of this. Weapons are secretly channeled to Iran to ensure that the war continues, on the pretext of releasing American hostages, for whose sake fleets are being deployed in the Mediterranean, and Israeli-backed massacres are being committed in Lebanon. He described all this as a severe blow to the Palestinian people, as well as to all Arabs in the region.

Chandra added that the continuation of this war, the shelling of civilians, and the attacks on Basra all serve the interests of the common enemy. He called for combined efforts to end the war, declare an immediate cease-fire, ensure a return to international borders, exchange prisoners of war, and then begin negotiations between the two sides.

In conclusion, Chandra appealed to the Iranian regime to agree to a cease-fire and negotiate for peace, without wasting time on the question of who started the war.

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EGYPT

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE URGES END TO LEBANON CAMP WAR

NC081409 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Commenting on events in Lebanon, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt is following the continued grave escalation of aggression against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon with deep concern and pain. Egypt is also greatly concerned with the extremely bad conditions and the spread of famine and disease within the camps as a result of the siege imposed upon them. This only increases the suffering of the camps' peaceful inhabitants, particularly women and children.

The source affirmed: Egypt strongly denounces these actions which benefit no one and serve no purpose other than to widen the circle of violence, spread hatred and destruction among the various parties in fraternal Lebanon, and aggravate the tragedy of the brother Palestinians. Egypt appeals to all the warring parties to resort to logic and reason and to the Arab and national conscience.

It also appeals to them to put an end to the shedding of Palestinian and Lebanese blood and to stop the siege of the camps. This is particularly called for in view of the fact that the PLO has declared its acceptance of all Arab and Islamic efforts to bring about an end to the fighting and secure peace.

/6091
CSO: 4500/64

AL-AKHBAR CONDEMNS 'BITTER SYRIAN ATTACK'

NC030703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)--Cairo's AL-AKHBAR has denounced the bitter Syrian attack against Egypt--its leader, people, and government--only moments after Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak had agreed to exchange envoys. It refers to the accidental meeting between President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the Islamic summit in Kuwait, which demonstrated several things, foremost of which is the clarity of Egyptian policy.

In a commentary to be published tomorrow, Tuesday, AL-AKHBAR says: The Syrian regime, whose president declares that he favors peaceful solutions, rejects the Egyptian invitation to benefit from Egypt's achievements, simply because Egypt made the first move. How could Egypt have the initiative? Wouldn't this confirm its leadership?

The paper asks: How could the Syrian regime enter into negotiations for a peaceful settlement with Egypt when this regime receives a great deal of protection money from some Arab states for merely declaring that it is in confrontation with Israel? The Syrian regime meets with Israeli officials everywhere to coordinate policy. The paper notes in this regard a statement by a senior Israeli official who has said that Israel is confident there will be no military confrontation with Syria, because Syria respects its commitments.

The paper asserts that what disconcerted the Syrian regime was Egypt's presence at the Islamic summit in Kuwait, at which it brilliantly succeeded in exhibiting the facts to the representatives of 44 Islamic and Arab states, proving the falsehood of Syrian allegations and the fact that it is implementing a suspicious plot against Arab and Islamic solidarity.

The paper urges Arabs not to isolate themselves or close their eyes to irrefutable facts, but to move in the right direction by assuming responsibility and rejecting selfish interests.

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CSO: 4500/64

EGYPTIAN EDITOR RAPS SYRIAN STAND ON EGYPT

JN031020 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 31 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Article in the "Political Situation" column by editor in chief Ibrahim Sa'dah: "A Paper Lion [Asad in Arabic means Lion]"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak did not want to reply to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when the latter attacked Egypt and its policies and interfered in its internal affairs. It would have been easy for President Mubarak to expose Hafiz al-Asad before the kings and presidents of the Muslim countries meeting at their fifth summit in Kuwait. The case of the Syrian regime is clear to the entire world. The stands of the Syrian regime are ridiculed by the Arab man in the street, particularly in Syria itself. It would have been sufficient for President Mubarak to cite some of these stands and Syria's mistakes, naming their leading stars from among Syria's lions and cats to make Hafiz al-Asad fumble and hide in his seat to avoid seeing the laughing, ridiculing, and pitying faces of the Arab kings and presidents.

However, President Husni Mubarak refused to reply to Hafiz al-Asad. He refused to waste the time of kings and presidents by making them hear what they already know and totally condemning the Syrian regime. The Islamic summit was not held to expose the misdeeds and crimes of one of the leaders of the ICO member states, and expose his true picture to the peoples of the entire Muslim world, a picture which we did not want for him or for his people who are afflicted by his regime. For, in the final analysis, Hafiz al-Asad is an Arab ruler and the head of a fraternal Muslim state, and that alone is sufficient cause for President Mubarak to rise above exposing him and exposing his stands and criminal plans to those representing millions of Muslims.

It does not matter that the Syrian foreign minister attacked Egypt. It does not matter that the Syrian president abused Egypt. That is the only approach which Syria's Ba'thist regime can master. It is the only policy adopted by the Syrian regime ever since it came to power to this day. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid did not remain silent on the insults leveled at Egypt by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He replied to Al-Shar' and confounded him; exposed the mistakes of his regime, and revealed the contacts made by the Syrian regime, shaming and silencing him. Al-Shar' was compelled to withdraw from the hall surrounded by the ridiculing and pitying looks of all the foreign ministers of the Muslim states.

President Husni Mubarak's view is that what President al-Asad said does not deserve a reply. President Mubarak is anxious not to attack any Arab leader, and not to respond to any abuse leveled by the Arab media against Egypt and its policies. That is his approach which he has made known ever since he came to power in Egypt to this day. Such a policy which has characterized President Mubarak has succeeded, and the speedy Egyptian-Arab rapprochement is evidence of such success. As for the laughable slogan that calls for "the return of Egypt to the Arabs, or the Arabs' return to Egypt," President Mubarak's view was: Egypt has not and will not call for such a return, because Egypt's Arabism exists and is constant. It was the Arab regimes that imagined they could isolate Egypt from its sister Arab states, and starve the Egyptian people to punish them for supporting a realistic and civilized solution for the return of occupied Arab territory, and a solution for the Middle East question. What happened is that Egypt was not isolated, and the Arab peoples did not support their leaders' attempt to bring about such an isolation. The Egyptian people did not starve, or retreat. Their confidence in peace was not shaken, and they did not abandon their support for the Camp David accords signed by the immortal leader Anwar al-Sadat. As a result of the Camp David accords Egypt regained one-third of the territory which Israel occupied after the defeats in 1956 and 1967.

It was the Arab regimes that severed their relations with Egypt. Any talk about the restoration of these relations should be at the initiative of those who severed them, and not at the initiative of those whom they imagined will kneel because these relations were severed. President Husni Mubarak has declared scores of times that Egypt does not want to embarrass anyone, and that it welcomes every state that wishes to restore relations with Egypt. That is what happened when King Husayn restored full diplomatic relations with Egypt out of his belief in Egypt's Arabism, the patriotism of its president, and the soundness of its political moves to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, regain the occupied Arab territory, and solve the Palestinian question whose priority on the agenda of all the Arab regimes has greatly dropped.

Contrary to what the Syrian president and his disciple the Libyan leader and the other leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front had imagined, President Mubarak's policy in underlining the soundness and sincerity of Egypt's Arab and Palestinian policy has succeeded, as evidenced by the restoration of Egypt's ICO membership, and the speedy rapprochement between Egypt and all the Arab regimes except for the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Such a rapprochement has evolved through regular contacts, publicized and unpublicized meetings with Arab kings and presidents, and the warm welcome accorded to the Egyptian president at the Islamic summit by the Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad, King Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in their addresses to the summit, and by King Fahd in his interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM.

All this constitutes a cruel and bitter defeat for the rulers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front countries headed by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who is no longer able to secure the obedience of others and has been rendered incapable of terrorizing Arab regimes and imposing his views and

stands on them. This dictator no longer intimidates the almsgivers who used to fill his treasury with easy money. Is there now any sane person who believes that Syria is capable of imposing its hegemony on the Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf??!

The myth of Hafiz al-Asad's invincible power has ended. And consequently, the Syrian terrorism which has succeeded for many past years in forcing most Arab rulers to adopt the Syrian attitude against Egypt, to reject its presence in the Arab League, to ban head of state level contacts with it, and to kill any attempt to readmit Egypt in the Arab ranks or to allow the Arabs to return to Egypt, has also ended.

At last, the rulers of the Arab states have become convinced that Hafiz al-Asad is no longer the tiger they believed him to be or that he, at least, has become a paper tiger, as the Chinese say. Hafiz al-Asad is now exposed before the whole world. He is depicted as the leader of the Arab nation only by mercenary writers, broadcasters who transmit what is dictated to them, and by the statements of weak rulers who wield no power whatsoever.

President Hafiz al-Asad made some strange remarks and statements before the Islamic summit. He said that Syria adheres to some principles, the most important of which are the following: No communication channels with those who renege on Arab consensus, no relations with those who negotiate with the Israeli enemy, and those who recognize Israel should not be allowed to sit in our midst. We wished to hear these principles enunciated by any Arab or Islamic president other than Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This president is the last one to have the right to talk about principles--any principles--and brag about his adherence to these principles. The Syrian president has deluded himself into believing that he isolated Egypt from its Arab nation because it "surrendered, offered concessions [to the Israelis], and stabbed the Arabs in the back by its pursuit of a separate solution and its restoration of its land through peace arrangements instead of the methods based on launching wars against Israel with the aim of throwing its people in the sea." Under this illusion, Al-Asad has been portrayed for a number of years as the Arab leader who is capable of unifying the Arab nation and rallying its armies to launch his holy war against Israel. Years pass one by one, and the Arab public opinion is awakened to the fact that Egypt, through its wise policies, was able to regain a third of the occupied territories, that had been occupied, while Syria was unable to restore one inch of its territories which were occupied by Israel on the heels of the successive defeats inflicted upon it. The Arab public opinion has also awakened to the fact that Egypt supports the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; while the Syrian Ba'th Party regime continues to deal one blow after another to the PLO, plans to remove Yasir 'Arafat and his aides from the PLO leadership, acts in harmony with Israel to strike at legitimacy in Lebanon, and takes part with Israel, through the secret contacts it maintains with it which were partly revealed by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in the plans aimed at securing the continuation of the destructive war in Lebanon and failure of any attempts to achieve the desired peace in that country.

Not only that, but at last, the Arab rulers have also become certain that the Syrian regime managed to exhaust their financial resources and wreck their treasuries on the pretext that it was preparing for the destruction of Israel, at a time when it maintains contacts with the Israelis, draws up schemes with them, helps to achieve their ambitions, and concludes an unwritten nonaggression treaty with them, so that the two sides can be left free to achieve their objective which is erasing Lebanon from the map of the world.

When awakened to this striking fact, the Arab rulers and peoples have become certain that Syria's rulers, who have been deluding the Arabs with their promises, are not respectable statesmen. This fact was confirmed when it became obvious that their inability to liberate their land renders them incapable of liberating Palestine, and that the large amounts of money they have obtained were not utilized to liberate the Syrian occupied territories or resolve the Palestine question, but to finance the schemes of the Syrian Ba'th Party, to destroy Lebanon, and to encourage Iran to invade Iraq with the aim of toppling the regime of President Saddam Husayn--Syria's arch-enemy.

The Arab rulers have made a comparison between the presidents of Egypt and Syria and the results of the comparison were not in favor of the Syrian president. The Arabs have become certain that the Egyptian leadership is honest with itself and its Arab nation and that it honestly adheres to its principles and stands. Hence, the Islamic summit conference witnessed a great change of stands in favor of Egypt and an obvious tendency by the delegations to the summit to distance themselves from the Syrian delegation and its stands.

I believe that it is fair to say that the Islamic summit conference has succeeded even if it has done nothing other than exposing the Syrian regime and its involvement in dirty operations and shedding light on its schemes and suspect secret contacts which are aimed at securing the interests of Israel and the enemies of the Arab nation.

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CAIRO TELEVISION COMMENTS ON SYRIAN ENTRY INTO BEIRUT

NC240856 Cairo Television Service in English 1820 GMT 23 Feb 87

[From the "Spotlight on News" program]

[Text] Some 7,000 Syrian troops, supported by an artillery battalion and 100 tanks, had marched on to West Beirut in a new move of a challenging Syrian military presence in the area, since the 1982 invasion which the Syrians allowed to go on undisturbed and unhindered and pulled out of the Lebanese capital at the time. Most significant is the fact that the pro-Syrian Amal militia disappeared from the streets as the Syrian forces moved in for a more effective round of Palestinian genocide. Once it is the Israelis with their military jets and naval units pounding the refugee camps, then it is pro-Iranian and pro-Syrian militias carrying on, and now it is the Syrian forces with all their armor.

This rotation reminds us of the musical chairs game. The only difference is that in the Palestinian or Lebanese tragedy nobody drops out for good. It is more of a relay race, a well-synchronized Syrian-Israeli-Iranian plan, with each handing the banner over to the next to carry on with the massacre operation, but nobody ever drops out. Rather, the banner goes back to the first runner again and again and the rotation never ends.

The new Syrian defiance of Lebanese entity has already been branded by President Amin al-Jumayyil as unconstitutional, while the Lebanese are infuriated by what they find to be a flagrant violation of international law. Yet the Syrian move tells of a new phase in Israeli-Syrian connivance, not against Palestinian presence or rather survival alone, but, equally dangerous, against Lebanese territorial integrity. Whatever the claim, the move is a step toward the partitioning of Lebanon, which gives the Syrians a big slash and allows the Israelis a free hand in the South. The blessings shown by the Israeli air force jets following the Syrian thrust into Beirut, together with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's safe conduct given through his declaration of non-intervention, tell yet of another grim phase of Syrian-Israeli coordination, to the detriment of both Palestinians and Lebanese. The new defiance shows beyond the least doubt that we have reached a time when anyone can do anything anywhere and get away with it. Speaking of our strife-torn area, we find that in most if not all minds the Middle East problem is associated with the idea of an international conference as a positive and constructive outlet.

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CSO: 4500/65

SIDQI ANNOUNCES NEW FOOD INSPECTION PROCEDURE

NC161724 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)--Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met today with the ministers of transportation, electricity, industry, supply, health, and economy and foreign trade, as well as the chairman of the nuclear energy organization. Following the meeting, which lasted over 2 hours, the prime minister said that they discussed various aspects of inspection of imported food.

As of today, the prime minister said, Alexandria port will be equipped with up-to-date devices to detect radioactive contamination in imported food, regardless of its source or importer. This will be in addition to the tests conducted in the harbor by laboratories of the Health, Agriculture, and Economy Ministries. All the equipment needed to test imported goods is available at the harbor, which will ensure that goods are examined quickly and that ships are not delayed.

As of tomorrow, Thursday, Port Said seaport will be supplied with similar equipment, to be operated by highly trained experts from the nuclear energy organization.

Dr Sidqi said that imported food is always thoroughly examined and that no substandard or radioactively contaminated goods are ever allowed into the country.

As of last May, following the Chernobyl accident, all imported food has been subjected to inspection with radioactivity detectors at the nuclear energy organization's laboratories in Nasr city and Inshas. This, however, caused delays in test results because the samples had to be sent to the laboratories. Thus, it was decided to supply the harbors with radioactivity detectors, which will allow for test results in 24 hours on random samples of up to 50 individual items from each consignment.

Dr Sidqi said that all imported foodstuffs, whether procured by individuals or the government, including aid sent from the EC and other countries, will be subjected to the same tests.

The ship "Transmarina," which arrived in Alexandria at the time the FRG had sounded an alarm about contaminated milk, Sidqi said was carrying a consignment of aid from the EC consisting of milk and margarine. Forty-nine samples from this consignment underwent 3 phases of inspection and were shown to be free of radioactivity and fit for consumption.

No one would ever gain from tampering with public health or covering up violations anywhere, the prime minister said. The government is fulfilling its duty with meticulous concern for the citizens' health. Any food which is not fresh or has been contaminated is not allowed in. The prime minister reiterated his call on citizens to report immediately any information they may have in this regard.

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BRIEFS

SOCIALIST LABOR LEADER ON PARTY ALLIANCES--Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)--Eng Ibrahim Shukri, Socialist Labor Party [SLP] leader, today said that party alliances in democratic countries are a common practice in all election campaigns. He told MENA that the alliance of the SLP, the Liberal Party, and the Islamic movement must be seen in a favorable light, as this practice will boost the smooth functioning of democracy. The SLP leader expressed regret that not all opposition parties agreed to coordinate among themselves in the election campaign and that they did not utilize the spirit of harmony which had characterized their meeting on 5 February. Shukri added that his party was satisfied with President Husni Mubarak's statement on the People's Assembly elections. I hope, Shukri said, that everybody acts according to President Mubarak's appeal. This would enhance the spirit of fair competition and the atmosphere of democracy, he concluded. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1343 GMT 16 Feb 87 NC]

IRANIAN THREAT TO BASRA--Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)--The AL-AHRAM newspaper calls on the Arabs to defend the Iraqi city of Basra, and to prevent its fall to the Iranian forces at all costs, in view of the city's strategic importance to both Iraq and the Arab region. The paper asserts that Basra is not only an Iraqi city but also an Arab gateway. In its editorial to be published in tomorrow's edition, AL-AHRAM warns against the fall of Basra. It notes that its loss could have serious repercussions and lead to major changes in the Gulf region. Prompt and collective action is required to drive [word indistinct] through bold policies and conscious and vigilant moves. The paper explains that the Iranian plan envisages that Basra will be attacked by successive human waves on a broad front. Bridgeheads will be established to ensure the continuation of these attacks. Basra, which has been deserted by a great number of its inhabitants, will then become an example for the entire population, particularly that of Baghdad, which is being subjected to missile attacks. The paper emphasizes that all Iraqis must be aware of the Iranians' true long-term strategy, aimed at the capture of Basra. This strategy seeks to separate Northern and Southern Iraq. The paper asserts that the Iraqis should not fear the Iranian policy of terror, and calls on them all, including ordinary citizens, to ferociously confront any Iranian advance toward Basra. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Feb 87 NC]

SYMPOSIUM CALLS FOR END TO GULF WAR--In a statement issued today at the end of its sessions in Cairo, the international symposium on ending the Iran-Iraq war called for an immediate halt to the conflict in the interest of the two countries' peoples and the region and as a service to world peace. It stressed that this war is affecting the struggle of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. The 3-day symposium witnessed deep concern over the secret arms deals by which the United States and Israel supplied Iran with weapons, which has caused a furor even within the United States itself, the statement noted. Participants in the symposium called for an unconditional and immediate cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and for negotiations to find a peaceful and comprehensive settlement to the conflict. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Feb 87 NC]

CRUDE PETROLEUM PRICES DOWN--Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)--The Egyptian General Petroleum Organization announced today a reduction in the price of Egyptian crude petroleum ranging from 35 to 65 cents per barrel. The corporation fixed the prices as follows: Bala'im crude petroleum: \$16.65 per barrel; Ra's Badran crude petroleum: \$16 per barrel; and Ra's Gh'aib crude petroleum: \$15.40 per barrel. Engineer Hammad Ayyub, chairman of the Petroleum Corporation for foreign trade affairs, has stated that these prices will be effective from tomorrow, Monday, until 28 February. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Feb 87 NC]

ARMED FORCES' TRAINING--Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)--Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has announced that the Armed Forces should always exercise complete preparedness, or they will be unable to defend and protect Egypt. He said that the Armed Forces are forging ahead with their training stages in complete efficiency, noting: We simply cannot defer training operations until war breaks out. Modern wars are unlike those fought in the 18th and 19th centuries. In statements after attending a phase of the tactical exercise codenamed "Sumud 2" being conducted by the 3d Army, Abu Ghazalah said that the Armed Forces are reducing expenditures by using the most modern training methods. He noted, however, that these reductions will not be at the cost of personnel training with equipment; a soldier cannot use his equipment without training. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that this exercise is routine and is part of standard training plans. He said that this phase deals with fighting in difficult terrains and overcoming the difficulties officers and soldiers might encounter. Asked about joint military training exercises which Egypt conducts with other countries, Abu Ghazalah said: When there are joint exercises we will announce them. In conclusion, Abu Ghazalah said he will visit Italy in April at the invitation of his Italian counterpart. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Feb 87 NC]

AMAL 'MASS TERRORISM' CONDEMNED--Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)--The newspaper AL-AHRAM strongly condemns the war of siege, starvation, and tyranny being waged by the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal Movement against Palestinian refugees in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, describing it as bloody mass terrorism. In its editorial in Saturday's edition, the paper expresses astonishment that Amal should perpetrate such criminal actions, when at one time it had raised the banner of struggle in southern Lebanon against the Israeli interlopers in a manner that

linked its name with fierce patriotism. However, the paper notes, it appears the "victory alliances" have exhausted and overwhelmed Amal, so it has abandoned fighting the enemy and begun despicable and unlimited aggression against brothers. In conclusion, the paper urges those who profess purity and gentleness to realize that through their despicable behavior they are corroborating world opinion of their true nature. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 20 Feb 87 NC]

INFORMATION, CULTURAL PACT WITH BAHRAIN--An agreement on information and cultural cooperation between Egypt and Bahrain was signed at the Information Ministry this afternoon by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad. Safwat al-Sharif spoke on the occasion, affirming that the Bahraini information minister's visit to Egypt is aimed at broadening bilateral relations. He termed Tariq al-Mu'ayyad's talks with information and culture officials successful. Tariq al-Mu'ayyad also spoke, lauding Egypt's wise leadership. He described the agreement as the beginning of further cooperation between Egypt and Bahrain. In his address, Minister of Culture Dr Ahmad Haykal commended the agreement. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 87 NC]

READMISSION TO ARAB DOCTORS UNION--Khartoum, 22 Feb (MENA)--At its meeting in Khartoum today, the higher council of the Arab Doctors Union unanimously decided to cancel the freezing of Egypt's membership in the Arab Doctors Union. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 22 Feb 87 NC]

NINE DETAINED IN SAUDI ARABIA RETURN--Nine Egyptians who were released by the authorities in Saudi Arabia have arrived at Cairo International Airport. The Egyptians were detained in Saudi Arabia following the events that occurred in the Mecca Mosque [in 1979]. They had been detained in Saudi Arabia until the Saudi authorities released them. The nine are: Usamah 'Awwad, Hamdi al-Sayyid, Ahmad Shibli, Khalid Taha Ibrahim, 'Ala'-al-Din Bayyumi, Muhammad Ahmad Fathi, Muhammad Sulayman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sultan, and Mustafa Abu-Sha'irah. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Feb 87 p 1 JN] /6091

EXPORTS EXEMPTED FROM YUGOSLAV TARIFFS--Belgrade, 6 Feb (MENA)--A Shukri Fu'ad, Egypt's ambassador in Belgrade, has stated that Egypt and Yugoslavia have agreed that Egyptian exports appearing on the bilateral trade accord lists will be exempted from Yugoslav tariffs and customs duties. Egypt will not have to reciprocate, he said. Following his meeting with Nenad Krekic, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign trade [title as received], Shukri told the agency [not further identified] that they discussed ways of improving bilateral ties, particularly in the economic and commercial fields. Trade between Egypt and Yugoslavia amounted to \$262 million last year, \$56 million of which was accounted for by Egyptian exports to Yugoslavia. [Excerpts] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 6 Feb 87 NC] /6091

'ARAFAT MESSAGE ON CAMPS RECEIVED--Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)--His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, the shaykh of Al-Azhar, today received PLO representative in Cairo al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim. The PLO official give his eminence a message from PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat concerning the situation in Lebanon and the harsh conditions in the Palestinian camps as a result of the tripartite siege by Syria, Israel, and the Amal Movement militia and the daily shelling of the camps. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Feb 87 NC] /6091

DEBATE, COMMENT ON NUMAYRI EXTRADITION REPORTED

Sudanese Party Delegation in Cairo

Khartoum AL-MAYDAN in Arabic 28 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] The delegation of Sudanese political parties to Cairo held several meetings with the leaders of the Egyptian opposition parties. There was fruitful discussion of matters that could improve relations between the two countries. The leadership of the Egyptian opposition parties agreed that the first obstacle to removing reasons for suspicion is the insistence of the Egyptian government on not handing over "the murderer" [Numayri] to the Sudan. The leaders agreed to work toward realizing the desire of the Sudanese people for extradition of "the murderer" for trial.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, president of the Egyptian People's Assembly, was the only official from the leadership of the ruling NDP whom the Sudanese delegation met. The meeting was stormy, because Dr al-Mahjub excitedly defended the position of the Egyptian government in a way highly offensive to the people of the Sudan. (See AL-MAYDAN's editorial comment.)

The delegation of the Sudanese political parties, which returned to Khartoum yesterday morning, had gone in response to an invitation from the Socialist Labor Party to attend its convention, and all the members of the delegation addressed sessions of the convention.

In a joint meeting with the leaders of the opposition parties, the Sudanese side thanked these parties for their initiative after the uprising and for visiting the Sudan to offer congratulations and solidarity. A press announcement was issued concerning the meeting.

The delegation was composed of: Dr Muhammad Bakhit (DUP), Professor Sarah Naqdallah (Ummah Party), Dr Mansur al-'Ajab (independent), Mrs Qismat Makki (National Party), Dr al-Shafi' Khidr (Communist Party), Mr Angelo Waniq (Sudanese-African Congress Party), Mr James Uqilu (Southern Political Grouping), and a member from the National Islamic Front.

Egyptian Attitude Criticized

Khartoum AL-MAYDAN in Arabic 28 Jan 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Mr President of the Egyptian People's Assembly, This Is an Unacceptable Style"]

[Text] During the last few days, a series of meetings took place in Cairo between members of the delegation of Sudanese political parties attending the convention of the Socialist Labor Party and a number of Egyptian leaders. The results of these meetings could be positive on the road to improving and developing relations between the two countries and in removing present obstacles.

However, we noticed--and we say it with regret--that all the meetings held by the Sudanese delegation were positive, except the meeting that took place with Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, president of the Egyptian People's Assembly, who allowed himself to depart from customary usage and went to extremes in using language, the least of which can be said about it is that it was unbefitting a man who occupies the position of president of the legislative body of our great neighbor.

Some members of the delegation inquired about the Egyptian government's position on extraditing the murderer Numayri to the government of the Sudan. They spoke with all seemliness and decorum.

Dr al-Mahjub's response was, in one word: "We won't hand over Numayri, even if the sky falls."

When a member of the delegation commented, saying, "But that is the will and desire of the Sudanese people," the president of the Egyptian parliament responded: "The Sudanese people decides what it wants."

That is what Mr al-Mahjub, the only leader of the ruling NDP with whom the Sudanese delegation met officially, said in his capacity as president of the People's Assembly.

What he said is wholly and utterly unacceptable, because it reflects hollow pride and the mentality of the Egyptian feudalists who thought of the Sudan as one of their estates and of the people of the Sudan as "barbarians" to be dealt with only from above.

People like Mr al-Mahjub do not, we believe, reflect the feelings of the great Egyptian people and do not speak in its name. It has therefore become necessary to unmask and uncover them and to draw attention to the foolishness and error of this style.

Rif'at al-Mahjub lived among us here in the Sudan, lecturing in the [Sudanese] branch of Cairo University, and was shown esteem, love, and respect. Why is he rebuking our people for having a will that it expresses and rights that it

demands? Why is he doing this, when we thought that he was, at very least, one of the educated Egyptians who know the Sudanese people, their attachment to their national feeling, and their sense of honor?

As people who advocate a common struggle with the Egyptian people, such talk can only increase our belief in the importance and necessity of this joint struggle so that such a mentality will be finished forever, whether in Egypt or in the Sudan.

Thus, we hold to whatever was positive in the Sudanese delegation's Cairo meetings with the opposition political parties, all of which confirmed their respect for the desire of the Sudanese people to press for the return of Numayri to face just retribution. We hold to whatever is positive and sincere in supporting the relations of our two peoples and developing them to serve the interests of the millions, not the interests of the tens and hundreds.

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CSO: 4504/124

AL-MAHDI ECONOMIC ADVISOR INTERVIEWED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Jan-2 Feb 87 pp 30-32

[Interview with Dr al-Tijani al-Tayyib, economic advisor to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham: "The Key to Balance Lies in Giving the Sudanese Private Sector Its Share"; Khartoum, date not given]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH met with Dr al-Tijani al-Tayyib, former expert in the World Bank and present advisor to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, for an exhaustive interview in which he openly criticized the current state of economic affairs in the Sudan and described the policies being followed as "fumbling and unclear." He indicated that the government's policies toward the private sector "have not yet crystallized, and the domineering style still holds sway over the economic administration in the Sudan." Its decisions "are not connected to actual reality." The new tax system "wages war on production." He called for an agreement with the IMF. The following is the conversation with Dr al-Tijani:

[Question] There is a charge that current economic and financial policy suffer from fumbling and confusion. What is your evaluation of the situation?

[Answer] We inherited from the May regime policies of the sort that could be called the prevalence of the domineering style in the method and thinking of economic administration. This style is utterly remote from the actual reality of things, and it is unfortunately still continuing. The government announced policies of a general nature last July. It was the duty of the executive apparatus to take the general framework of government policy and crystalize it, laying down the detailed policies that would lead to the general goals announced by the government. However, the domineering style controlling the thinking of the economic administration still holds sway, and administrative decisions and regulations continue to be issued remote from the events of reality. An example of this is the exchange rate of the Sudanese pound or the administrative fixing of commodity prices. If we compare all these things, we find that there is a difference between announced policy and the reality lived by the Sudanese people.

[Question] Among the measures taken recently to deal with the situation was the new credit policy to produce an abundant supply of foreign exchange. Do you think this policy caused the crisis?

[Answer] The main cause of the crisis is the fumbling and lack of clarity in trade and economic policies. The Sudan is indeed facing a scarcity of foreign revenues, and the government cannot supply the market with all necessities. The required balance between supply and demand is difficult, and the state cannot provide it with the resources it has at hand, or even with supplementary resources. The soundest solution in such cases is for there to be clear programming of the foreign exchange available and correct direction of it toward national needs in accordance with definite priorities. The rest of the required balance between supply and demand in the market should be dealt with on the basis of the parallel market. The parallel market, that is, should in this context play an active role in bringing in whatever additional things can be brought in to create this balance. What is required at this point is correct direction of this sector so that it participates actively in the approaches needed for again correcting the course of the economy in order to restore health to the Sudanese economy. The foreign exchange problem will not be solved if import-export policies are not placed in their correct framework and if the government does not clarify the relation between the public and private sectors and the special domains of each sector. What we are now suffering from is lack of a clear government policy toward the private sector. To be realistic, the government's policy toward the private sector has not yet crystallized. Without setting a clear policy and clear goals, no idea and definition of the economic domain sought for the private sector can be laid down.

[Question] In its program, the government announced clear approaches. Have administrative decisions been taken at variance with the government's program, or have the government's policies basically not dealt with the treatment over the short term?

[Answer] Government policies or the government's programs are broad goals. These goals require detailed programs, whether in the context of the total economy or in the different sectors. These programs were nonexistent. Committees were formed at the level of the total economy and of the different sectors to set forth a concept of the various policies and to connect these policies with the general goals announced by the government. These committees have not as yet produced the required programs, particularly in the context of the total economy. The basic line in this operation is that the government faces two stages. The first is the immediate stage, one of stabilizing the market. The other stage is the medium-range one of restoring growth and vigor to the economy. The market stabilization operation is one of rescue and first aid for an urgent problem, and these things, one assumes, should be done by the executive apparatus and the responsible bodies at the summit of the executive apparatus, and as quickly as possible. Basically, however, there was reliance upon the medium-range program. Consequently, the inertia and fumbling we see resulted.

Calling the Private Sector to Participate

[Question] As an expert in the economic field, is there an economic prescription you can suggest for dealing with the existing economic situation?

[Answer] First, on the question of supply and demand--as I mentioned, our production capabilities do not equal our economic needs. Consequently, we need additional revenues from abroad. The state does not have these additional revenues. The private sector, with its private method, may have them, and the external world may help the private sector to get them. What should happen is for the state to do what it can and leave the rest, according to definite priorities, to the private sector. It should give this sector freedom to operate in the context prepared for it. If this balance took place, things would proceed better than they now do. After this balancing has taken place and the economy has recovered its health and the productive base expanded, the government should turn to decreasing its reliance on overseas and should rely on local revenues in the medium-range period. In the short term, however, a first aid operation of this sort must take place, with the public and private sectors working in tandem to create a reasonable balance, whether at home or abroad, and with realistic commodity prices, according to definite priorities for creating this balance.

[Question] Do you think that government interference to fix the price of certain commodities, such as sesame or sorghum, or to monopolize the marketing of them has been unsuccessful?

[Answer] In fact, intervention has not been carefully studied. The basic problem, as I see it, is that there is no conception of the different roles of the private and public sectors. Until we can set forth a rational concept in the areas of agricultural investment, the fumbling will continue. The state's resources are limited, and the abilities of the state apparatus are well known; it suffers from weakness and imperfection in administration, organization, and structure. It is therefore undesirable to leave any market area to the public sector. It is sounder for this sector to be only a competitor, and not to monopolize everything. Even from the standpoint of resources, it is not beneficial for a weak and shaky sector to intrude and to undertake the operation of competing with the private sector. The state does not have sufficient resources. The operations that took place in the market took place in the context of production policies, with the state trying to support production. This requires protecting the farmer or the producer. Protecting the producer requires that the state take over the production and attend to the export operation. This operation was not thought out realistically and studied. The domineering style still holds sway over the economic administration, so that its decisions and regulations are not connected to the actual reality of the course of economic events. Had there been a rational concept, the public sector would never have taken on this great burden which it cannot support.

[Question] Does what you have said apply to the new tax policy?

[Answer] Tax laws in developing nations are usually connected to the country's ability to grow and develop. The tax system can be assumed to be linked to the state's economic systems and structures. As long as the goals of the state are revitalizing and rebuilding the economy, the tax system ought to be in step with state policy, helping to protect production, not making war on production. The fundamental fault of the new tax system is that it did not take this equation into account and went in the opposite direction to this

equation, setting rates higher than what they were in the past. These rates are consistent with the current economic situation that the country faces.

Untimely Discussions

[Question] What is your evaluation of the results and dimensions of recent discussions with the IMF?

[Answer] We have not entered into negotiations with the fund. However, insofar as we are members of it, the fund has the duty of preparing an economic report on the situation of its member countries at definite intervals agreed upon by the various governments. The recent visit of an IMF delegation at an invitation extended by the government was for the purpose of reporting on economic performance. In my opinion, this was a mistake. The report on economic performance is the basis on which the IMF executive council decides the future of its relations with the countries for which the study has been prepared. Among the provisions of this report is that it should deal with the country's economic programs and policies for the future. Insofar as the government has begun the operation of formulating programs for economic revitalization and the creation of new economic structures, it would have been sounder to have waited until the picture was complete and then to have invited the fund to talk with the responsible agencies on the basis of a clear and well thought-out program agreed upon by the various agencies within the government. The IMF delegation came to the Sudan at the wrong time, when there were no serious studies of government ideas for the future, either in the area of financial and monetary policy, or in the area of general economic policy, particularly as regards medium- and long-range policies. Consequently, the report contains much that is not in the interest or advantage of the Sudan financially, given the fact that we do not have financial dealings at the present time with the fund or with the organizations that lend on the same terms as the fund. IMF funds are lent at commercial rates of interest. The Sudan's state of indebtedness does not permit us to enter into such commercial dealings. Consequently, whatever the decision of the IMF executive council, its importance for us lies in its value in the eyes of the clients with which we deal in the international market as to whether the opinion of the fund is negative or positive. Therefore, there was no broad foundation upon which the two sides could talk, especially on basic policies and basic points of disagreement, such as the exchange rate, [commodity] support, and government-owned companies. On all of these points, government ideas have not yet been fully thought out. Any picture the fund took away was therefore fragmentary and incomplete. The discussion between the Sudan and the fund on these points was therefore not timely. Certainly, the picture the fund took away will have negative effects on its decision concerning the Sudan.

[Question] Can the lack of foreign exchange resources be dealt with through a bilateral agreement?

[Answer] It is important for us to come to an agreement with the fund. Talk about bilateral agreements is irresponsible, because the countries that would talk with us and with which we would reach bilateral agreements are the principal countries in the IMF. These countries cannot even think of

concluding bilateral agreements with the Sudan, if the Sudan does not have a clear and well studied program on which opinions can agree.

[Question] How, then, can the provision of foreign exchange be handled?

[Answer] Regarding foreign exchange, it should be handled in two stages. The short-range stage is connected to stabilizing the market. It could take place through a simple accounting operation: e.g., the required needs of the country for 6 months or a year. The government, in the context of a programmed, clear, and realistic government policy, would import the commodities required in addition to what could be left to the free market to handle. The second stage would be one of economic rescue or revitalization, and it should be taken in the context of the Sudan's foreign exchange needs over the coming 4 years and in the context of its needs in repaying what it owes on its foreign debt. This program would allow us to gather all creditor countries and countries from which we could borrow and to propose the program to them. It would allow us to draw a connection between our potential revenues and what we need to cover our needs and fulfil our foreign debts. This is the only framework within which the Sudan can move and within which it could move in the future. And this framework requires that we reach an agreement with the IMF.

Rapid Change Is Necessary

[Question] Do you think the prime minister will take any decision to change the current picture?

[Answer] The prime minister is an experienced politician. The economy is the back of the camel; if the back goes out of joint, the animal perishes. I think the prime minister understands the situation and senses how much complexity, multiplicity, and variety there is in economic problems. I think he understands that change is necessary and that rapid change is necessary, because time is not on the side of the Sudan and not on the side of a politician as experienced as he.

[Question] Is there a role for overseas Sudanese to play by helping with their savings?

[Answer] The savings of overseas Sudanese are an important balance. There are no precise estimates of its size. The available estimates are that they are around \$30-\$35 billion. For a country like the Sudan, this is a very significant amount and an important resource. Correct policies must be laid down to attract it and incorporate it as part of the foreign exchange budget upon which the government can build its policies for the future. The basic problem in the matter of the expatriates lies in the correct incentives. These incentives, as I believe, are the direct financial incentive in which there is no cost to the government or to the expatriate. This incentive is realism in handling affairs. The expatriate has a dollar and wants to bring the dollar into the Sudan and keep it in a bank. Abroad, inflation for the dollar today is 30 percent. If he brings his dollar into the Sudan, he finds an inflation of 40 percent. So the operation brings a loss for the expatriate. Furthermore, the interest rate outside the Sudan for the dollar

on credit now is from 6 to 7 percent, and in the Sudan zero. Why should the expatriate bring his dollar into the Sudan? Then there is the unrealistic exchange rate of the Sudanese pound. Even if he wants to spend his savings inside the Sudan, the difference between the government exchange rate and the free rate is great. I therefore propose the formation of a company with branches in all the areas where there are Sudanese outside the Sudan. This company would help any Sudanese coming to the Sudan with what he needs for his return. The company would profit from the charges on services. In addition, it would become the channel that could gather the savings of overseas Sudanese and move them into the Sudan. Just the service operation of the company would realize a profit of over \$100 million. I believe a correct free exchange rate is the only way for the government to take the lion's share of the savings of overseas Sudanese.

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DROUGHT IN KORDOFAN REPORTED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jan 87 pp 35, 36

[Report from al-Ubayyid by 'Abd-al-Qadir Hafiz: "Drought and Desiccation in Western Sudan, Kordofan Is Thirsty!"]

[Text] The vast Kordofan region in the western Sudan is considered one of the nine administrative regions forming the Republic of the Sudan. This region enjoys unique characteristics that distinguish it from the remaining Sudanese regions and make it a miniature model of the Sudan. Within it, cultural differences and racial and religious multiplicity live together--Arabs and Africans, Muslims and Christians and those with no religion. In this report, AL-DUSTUR attempts to explore this region, which its people describe as at once the richest and poorest region. It is the richest region in view of its human resources, its agricultural and livestock wealth, and its as yet unexploited oil and mineral wealth. It is the poorest region according to present conditions following the African Sahel drought wave, which has destroyed crops and livestock alike.

In the framework of this report, AL-DUSTUR met with the region's governor, the lawyer Muhammad 'Ali al-Murdi, in the central capital of the Kordofan region, al-Ubayyid. He supervises public administration for nearly 4 million residents, i.e., approximately one-fifth of the inhabitants of the Sudan.

The governor of the region indicated that understanding the reality of the residents within his region and formulating practical solutions to the problems and difficulties from which it suffers constitute the true point of entry for solving all the problems and difficulties of the Sudan.

He added: "All of the Sudan's concerns are present today in Kordofan. This backwardness in all its forms is represented by the phenomena of hunger, thirst, and ignorance. The Kordofan region has not been spared the effects of the rebellion in the South or of plundering bands that cross its borders with Upper Nile, Bahr al-Ghazal, and the Darfur region, which is close to the center of the fighting in Chad, or the Sudan's northern borders with the Libyan Jamahiriyyah."

The Kordofan region absorbed the greatest share of the damage done to the Sudan during the 16-year rule of Ja'far Numayri. Therefore, when waves of

desiccation overwhelmed the African Sahel, the impact of drought on the region was severe.

In 1983, 1984, and 1985, the average rainfall, which constitutes the basic resource for citizens in the region, declined, leading to a decrease in food production, a scarcity of fodder, and an estimated 1/2 million ton shortfall at the silos. About 1 million people were hurt by the drought; about 10,000 people died, mostly old people and children, and a large number of citizens emigrated north of the Nile, leaving their villages behind to be buried by the advancing sand.

The Numayri regime committed an enormous crime against these people by not taking the necessary preventative measures. The central government in Khartoum kept silent while famine was mowing down hundreds of people daily. Even when reports of the horror of the famine leaked out of the Sudan, the government continued to cover up the disaster and minimize its horror--at a time when the entire world was crying over the tragedy that had descended on the Sudan and was offering its hand in aid.

Villagers marched hundreds of miles on the way to the Nile. Those who fell fell. When the waves of refugees reached the shore of the Nile, there was no longer any way to deny the reality present at the very gates of the capital, at al-Muwaylih, to the west of Omdurman, and at al-Shaykh Abu Zayd.

The Kordofan region lost one-fourth of its inhabitants, who left with the waves of refugees. Of its livestock wealth, it lost hundreds of thousands of animals. Before the drought years, the region constituted an important part of the Sudan's strategic reserve of cattle, camels, and sheep. In the north of the region, where the drought became severe, these resources were estimated at 1,314,069 head of cattle, 3,259,814 sheep, 2,454,512 goats, and 1,038,512 camels. After the studies done to evaluate the losses in this area after the waves of drought had passed, it became evident that 31 percent of the cattle had been sold at very low prices due to lack of feed and water and that 69 percent had perished of hunger and thirst. Of the sheep, 54 percent had been sold, and 36 percent had perished. The loss in goats was 90 percent and in camels 84 percent.

In the area of agricultural crops, before the coming of the drought wave, food production exceeded the needs of local consumption, which were estimated at 590,000 tons a year. During the years of drought, productivity dropped to 112,000 tons in the year 1983-84. In 1984-85, it amounted to 228,000 tons. In March-April 1985, the Numayri regime fell, and in the autumn of the same year the first signs of precipitation began to appear in the afflicted areas. Food crop production increased by 102 percent, and the shortfall in food production dropped from 1/2 million tons to about 200,000 tons. Most of this increase in rainfall fell in northern areas, some of which had not carried on agricultural activity for several years. In the autumn of 1986-87, the increase in precipitation measured 148 percent above the preceding year. However, this increase in precipitation was not matched by a corresponding increase in production as a result of a number of factors, most importantly the effect of human emigration and insufficient combatting of such agricultural pests as mice and desert locusts, which attacked some of these

areas from East Africa. Also among these factors was reliance upon food aid from abroad (international relief). With all of this, the shortfall in food production now amounts to 190,000 tons. Agricultural statistics estimate that there is an additional, uninventoried reserve held by small farmers.

Gum Arabic and the War of Substitutes

The Kordofan region is one of the Sudan's best known regions for the production of gum arabic. The world's greatest gum arabic auction market is located in the region's capital, al-Ubayyid. The region extends into what is called the zone of the gum-producing acacia tree. This zone is located along latitude 12-14, and extends from the Darfur, Central, and Eastern regions. The region continued to hold first place before the drought, with 60 percent of total national production. With the drop in precipitation levels, this figure dropped to 30 percent, as the following table indicates:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity Produced (in Kantars)</u>	<u>Average Price (in Sudanese Pounds)</u>
1976-77	87,905	8.824
1977-78	58,692	9.924
1978-79	65,524	11.531
1979-80	56,104	12.374
1980-81	75,569	17
1981-82	62,294	19
1982-83	50,167	25
1983-84	117,152	38.677
1984-85	14,327	63.239
1985-86	31,631	103.239

The importance of gum arabic as an economic resource for the Sudan is still increasing, in spite of the beginning of the appearance of substitutes for the product due to the fact that production cannot satisfy the needs of European and American industries. The increasing demand is reflected in the rise of prices, as shown by the above table.

Nature's Wrath

Together with these dark pictures of the damage to natural resources in the Kordofan region after the onset of the drought, there are, in addition to these bitter realities, other facts that threaten the natural environment in coming years. Man has begun thoughtlessly to take his revenge on angry nature, thus adding another victim to the list of the drought's human and animal victims. This revenge is represented in the cutting that is making inroads on the tree cover in order to compensate for the material shortfall in plant and animal agricultural production. People are attacking the trees to make a quick profit by turning logs into firewood and charcoal. These depredations have denuded thousands of hectares of the tree cover that holds the soil. Signs of erosion have appeared over a wide area, turning these extensive areas into barren desert hostile to everything that supports life, and leading to the disappearance of rain clouds from the region. One wonders whether man can restore nature in these extensive areas to what it once was.

It appears at present that the answer is negative. The government's efforts in this area are not succeeding in relieving the hunger.

War Against Thirst

Specialists believe that the problem of providing sufficient water for men and animals in the Kordofan region is the correct point of entry for any serious action aimed at developing this region. Reliance upon the water brought by the rains during the months of June to October every year, even if we assume for the sake of argument that these rains will be abundant, will hardly be sufficient for what is needed. Reliance on surface reserves is no longer efficient, given the nature of evaporation and seepage. Digging hundreds of ground wells will not provide useful solutions. During the last 30 years since independence, all attempts at a "war against thirst" have not led to any results that would at least prevent the departure of a small proportion of the half of the region's inhabitants who travel south every year in search of water. The hundreds of water stations built by digging ground wells are gradually turning into tons of iron and scrap metal because of lack of spare parts and fuel. In the late seventies and early eighties, 1/2 million inhabitants of the regional capital, al-Ubayyid, went thirsty after the surface water sources supplying the city's drinking water needs dwindled. At that time, there were many rescue campaigns, and the regional capital was relieved by carrying water by train from the nearest point on the White Nile. Nearly one-fourth of the population left the city for the Nile cities. The specter of the mass evacuation of al-Ubayyid residents still hangs over the city each summer, as long as the reality of reliance upon traditional sources of drinking water (autumn rainfall) has not changed.

These resources consist of a surface reservoir holding approximately 2 million cubic meters, a large part of which is lost through evaporation, not to mention the fact that this water travels 30 kilometers to reach the main pumping station of the distribution network within the city of al-Ubayyid.

The Way to the Heart

Given this reality, it appears today that many people of Kordofan have a firm belief that the rulers, despite the succession of forms of government since independence, have not fully understood that the way to the hearts of the people of Kordofan is by interest in solving the problem of providing drinking water and turning this dream into a living reality. Dozens of theoretical studies have been done by foreign and local specialists, but they have remained in the files. Given the multiplicity of directions taken by these studies, surely there are proposals for procuring new sources in order to solve the problem fundamentally. Among the people of Kordofan, there is a conviction that this solution lies in making a bold political decision to divert a portion of the water of the Nile from the closest point of the White Nile, to irrigate extensive areas of fertile land located along both sides of the railroad line joining Kosti and al-Ubayyid, and to assure a sufficient reservoir for four of the largest regional cities in Kordofan before the water reaches its destination in the regional capital.

The people of Kordofan go so far as to believe that the government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi should take interest in this decision. The people of Kordofan take pride in the fact that their region was in the forefront of internal resistance to the Numayri government. Most of the soldiers who led opposition military movements within the Sudanese army were from Kordofan, not to mention the fact that the majority of inhabitants of the region supported the party of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the recent parliamentary elections and gave it one-fourth of its representatives in the Constituent Assembly.

At the conclusion of this report, we return again to the governor of Kordofan, Muhammad 'Ali al-Murdi, to ask him how he envisions the point of departure for rescuing his "richest and poorest" region, as its people call it. The governor says: "If man is the basis of development, then the departure of this man from his place, which is the place of production, in search of a mouthful of bread and a sip of water, represents the greatest harm that can befall any locality, region, or country. The drought has in fact emptied agricultural areas even of the laborers who used to work the ground and provide food for themselves and for others, in addition to hundreds of thousands of heads of cattle that perished because of drought and famine. As long as we do not act to return this man to his locality, these areas will remain depopulated, and the people of Kordofan and the Sudan will remain hungry." The governor goes on to say: "Keeping people in their localities necessarily requires the provision of drinking water and such basic structures and essential services as education, health, social care, and agricultural guidance--things that the tyrannical May regime failed not only to accomplish, but even to perceive."

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PAPER RAPS SYRIAN, PAKISTANI STAND ON ICO RESOLUTION

JN251049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0654 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)--An Iraqi paper has affirmed that the reservation expressed by the representatives of Syria and Pakistan over a draft resolution on the Iraqi-Iranian dispute approved by the [ICO] formulation committee with an overwhelming majority, clearly means that the Syrian and Pakistani regimes do not want the war to end and that they support its continuation and the Iranian regime's continuous aggression against Iraq.

In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH said that the Syrian and Pakistani stand completely contradicts the principles and values of Islam, as well as the objectives of the ICO which call for solving disputes among the Islamic countries through peaceful means.

The paper added that the irresponsible and immoral stand of the Syrian and Pakistani regimes on the aggressive war against Iraq, despite the difference of motives, underlines an important fact; namely, that the two regimes have a certain role in encouraging the Iranian regime to adhere to the course of war, aggression, and expansion against Iraq and the Iranian nations.

The paper explains that the Syrian regime's treacherous stand is not the first of its kind. Throughout the years of the war, in international forums and conferences, this regime continued to stand alongside the Iranian regime and zealously adopt its ideas, and, furthermore, deputize for it in its absence. This is what is happening at the fifth [Islamic] summit.

The paper indicates that Pakistan's stand is not new either although it continued to claim neutrality and pretends to be playing the role of mediator. The paper said that on more than one occasion and in more than one international gathering, it was clear that Pakistan sides with the Iranian regime and does not accept to enrage it because of the cheap economic interests provided for it by the continuation of the war.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH affirms that despite the shameful position of the two regimes, the draft resolution expressed the conference's satisfaction with Iraq's acceptance of the ICO and UN Security Council resolutions. This exacerbates the political defeat of the Iranian regime, in addition to the devastating military defeat in the recent battles.

/9274
CSO: 4400/146

IRAQ

BRIEFS

OUTGOING VATICAN AMBASSADOR--Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Vatican Ambassador Luigi Counti here today at the end of the latter's term of office in Baghdad. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them. The Vatican ambassador expressed his high appreciation for Iraq's peaceful positions and its positive role in achieving security and stability in the region. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 24 Jan 87 JN] /9274

CSO: 4400/146

AL-RA'Y DOUBTS U.S. STAND ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JN231316 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The International Conference and U.S. Hints"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration did not agree on anything with Shamir regarding the proposed international conference to bring about a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question. This, however, has not been ruled out and would not be unusual. It is the outcome of the lost U.S. credibility and the Israeli strategy that is hostile to genuine peace in the region.

It goes without saying that those who relinquish their credibility to exacerbate the Iraq-Iran war do not find it difficult to relinquish their credibility with regard to peace, which they pledged to help establish on the basis of a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question. Thus, Washington was content to hint that it is thinking of an international conference as a means for direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. Even this bland, inadequate hint soon faded before the arrogant Israeli rejection announced by Shamir.

It should be recalled that the international conference advocated by the Arabs differs from what the Americans want. Jordan has defined the mission of the conference as implementing the international resolutions calling for a solution to the question, while the Americans are belittling the role of such a conference as the mere arena for direct negotiations without clearly specifying the objective it is committed to achieving.

This means that the bland U.S. hints will not restore U.S. credibility because it is no more than an attempt to undermine the international conference and stir up differences over its tasks.

Therefore, waiting for a positive U.S. effort to convene the conference is like running after a mirage. Moreover, we must beware of any attempt Washington may make to undermine the conference before it is held.

No doubt, creating an Arab reality in which all options will be available is the only way to hold the conference as soon as possible. Otherwise, the Arabs will only receive theoretical stands from friends and negative maneuvers from those who lost their credibility and opted for being supporters of the Israeli aggressors.

EDITORIAL URGES EFFORTS TO 'UNMASK' ISRAELI STAND

JN210928 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Feb 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Last Chance and Israeli Obdurate ness"]

[Text] Israel's intransigent position on the question of an international Mideast peace conference as demonstrated by Yitzhak Shamir's pronouncements throughout his U.S. visit speaks volumes for a belligerent Israel bent on rejecting peace and placing obstacles in its path. Admittedly, the United States gave a semblance of going along with the idea of an international peace conference, with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz saying that something along these lines may be satisfactory. But this does not differ much from the Israeli stand, nor does it truly signify acceptance of an international conference. Notwithstanding apparent differences between the United States and Israel over the proposed conference, the true U.S. position is summed up by Shultz's statement: "We are not aiming for an international conference; we are aiming for direct negotiations. This is what we are trying to achieve."

Israel has consistently exerted a blackmailing influence on U.S. policies, with a community of interests being the driving force behind their relationship. Israel has consistently sought to direct foreign U.S. policies to serve its own interests in return for volunteering its services on behalf of the Americans, the most recent example being Shamir's invitation to U.S. Naval units to use Israeli bases. This invitation was a virtual down payment of the price of U.S. opposition to an international Mideast peace conference, which Israel likes to portray as a Soviet trap. Israel's blackmailing of the United States is indeed mind-boggling, determining the course of Washington's foreign policies.

The results that have emerged from the latest U.S.-Israeli contacts and Israel's abhorrence of an international peace conference, favored by a world yearning for stability and peace in the Mideast, specifically nonaligned countries, ICO nations, and quite a few European states, make the Israeli rejection reprehensible and damnable, for which the United States, which aids and abets Tel Aviv's dismissal of peace and its continued aggression against the Arab nation by denying its rights, occupying its territories, and enslaving one of its peoples, must be held equally responsible.

Given the Israeli stubbornness fostered and nurtured by U.S. policies, the Arab nation should embark on a global political effort to expose and unmask the Israeli position and spell out its hazards and goals. And now that the international community sees in an international conference an opportunity to bring peace to the Mideast, it is up to other countries as well to expose and unmask the Israeli position and damn its supporters.

The battle for peace is part of a long battle to besiege, beat, and denounce aggression--a battle in which the world will recognize that whereas we are concerned about peace, our enemies are anxious to pursue their aggressive war. It is the kind of battle for which every Arab effort must be mustered if it is to be won.

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JORDAN

SAWT AL-SHA'B URGES EUROPEAN PEACE INITIATIVE

JN221159 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Feb 87 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Europe Once Again"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Austria complements the efforts his majesty has been launching for the sake of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

This European visit once again emphasizes the importance Jordan attaches to the European role in the current circumstances and also to the uniqueness of this role which resulted from the Europeans' ability to formulate their own convictions about the importance of the international peace conference as a framework for resolving the conflict in the region. First and foremost, Europe has spared no effort to defend the call for holding this conference while at the same time working diligently to help and support the Jordanian development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

With the loss of the U.S. credibility, the revelations about the U.S. role in supplying arms to Tehran, the determination to send more weapons to an aggressive country that daily takes pride in stating that it wants to occupy Iraqi territories, and the statements implying rejection of the international conference and laying down impossible conditions for its convocation, holding frank talks and consultations with our friends in Europe becomes vital. These frank talks and consultations which his majesty the king began with European officials during his previous visits to France and Italy are continuing now in Austria.

It seems that the European countries, which are close to the center of the ongoing events in the Middle East, are greatly interested in bringing the Arab peace efforts to fruition and that they are doing their best to support the Arab efforts which seek to save the region from the dark tunnel to which Israel is sticking and through which it aims to encircle and thwart all peace initiatives, maintain a volatile situation in the region, and keep the doors closed for any peaceful solution for an indefinite period of time.

While the Arabs, headed by Jordan, have been working to bring about peace and an end to the impasse in the efforts to resolve the conflict, Israel continues to reject all peace formulas, works to sabotage all serious attempts in this regard, and maintains a shuttle diplomacy between Washington and Tel Aviv to secure a U.S. political cover for its stand in a bid to make this intransigent stand shared by a superpower such as the United States.

Hence, His Majesty King Husayn is trying to convey to the European countries the Jordanian constants and the Arab ideas concerning the solutions which are considered supreme objectives of and priorities for Arab endeavors. The French and the Italians listened to his majesty's ideas attentively and supported the Jordanian stand. Therefore, Austria is expected to display the understanding position for which Austrian President Kurt Waldheim is well known. This position will help elicit a positive response to the Arabs' just demands. Consequently, the need arises for a collective European initiative that once again affirms the pressing need for an international conference which is the only means through which a just and comprehensive solution for the Middle East conflict can be achieved.

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CSO: 4400/148

AL-DUSTUR GREETS EC SUPPORT FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

JN241201 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Feb 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "A Distinguished European Role"]

[Text] The statement which was released by the EC foreign ministers yesterday expressed full and unconditional support for the idea of holding an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all the countries concerned in the Arab-Israeli dispute and any other side which can positively help achieve security and peace for the Middle Eastern countries.

In addition to this important support for the idea of holding an international conference by a political group which has a qualitative influence and distinguished position in international politics, Western Europe took a new forward step in the statement it issued yesterday when it expressed the readiness of its states to play an effective role in the context of the international conference both through rotational chairmanship of the EC and through contacts held by every member state with the countries concerned in the region crisis.

Although great and violent developments have taken place in the Middle East arena since 1980 when the famous Venice Declaration was issued, the EC foreign ministers made a point yesterday of stressing anew their governments' commitment to that declaration and the principles contained in it, particularly with regard to reaching a settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Undoubtedly the reaffirmed EC's adherence to the Venice Declaration, which has so far constituted the best European understanding of the situation prevailing in the Middle East, is a victory for the Arab viewpoint which believes that Europe has an important role which it should play regarding this neighboring region and that it has moral responsibilities toward the region's peoples who have cultural and historical ties with the countries and peoples of Western Europe.

While highly valuing the statement, issued by the EC countries in the wake of the meeting which was held by its foreign ministers to discuss the developments of the Middle East crisis, we hope the Arab side will be able to exploit this forward European position and employ the European support for the idea of holding the international conference in a way that meets all the legitimate Arab aspirations. We believe that this can be attained only by restoring Arab solidarity, which constitutes the only possible option for this nation to regain its role, weight and credibility before the entire world population.

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CSO: 4400/148

JORDAN

AMMAN TELEVISION CARRIES 6 FEBRUARY WEST BANK PROGRAM

JN310933 [Editorial Report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1825 GMT 6 February 1986 carries a new 27-minute episode of the weekly program "With Our People in the Occupied Territory." This week's program begins with a 3-minute announcer-read report on Prince Hasan's address to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 29 January 1987.

Next is the following 2-minute announcer-read report: "In its issue for 2 February 1987, AL-QUDS newspaper published a report claiming that money has been allocated for projects in the Hebron area which were implemented many years ago. AL-QUDS notes that the projects which were implemented and for which new money has been allocated are as follows: 1) The Kharsa electric network in the Dura area, 2) the 'Awarta electric power station in the Nablus Governorate, 3) the Wadi al-Shajnah-Dura road, 4) the Abu al-Ghizlan road near Dura, and 5) the Nuba electric power station in the Hebron area.

"The occupied Territory Affairs Ministry is concerned to affirm that the projects, which came under the completed projects and which were approved by the committee stemming from the occupied Territory Affairs Committee and for which the necessary financial allocations were allocated emerged, according to the needs of those areas as requested by the people and institutions from those areas, more than once through the requests presented to this ministry. These projects were studied by the ministry's envoys to the occupied territory in consultation with the representatives in the House of Representative from those areas."

This is followed by a 7-minute interview with Dr Sa'dallah Sa'dallah, chief of the Occupied Territory Development Department of the Occupied Territory Affairs Ministry. In this interview, Dr Sa'dallah comments on the report published in AL-QUDS by affirming that the electricity networks in these villages are temporary and old. He says that the electricity networks will be renewed and adds that the roads are old and rough and that new modern roads will be paved.

Dr Sa'dallah says: "The new plan in Nuba is to purchase a new electrical generator to supply the old village and new modern areas with electricity." He adds that the local council will own the old electrical company in the new plan. Dr Sa'dallah concludes: "Within the next few days, the executive measures of the development projects in the occupied territory will be announced."

Next is a 2-minute announcer-read report on the "deteriorating economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza." The announcer says: "Israel's objective is to destroy the economic, social structure of the Palestinian Arab society to turn Arab individuals into a labor force in the service of Israel. The other objective is to achieve material profits." The announcer adds that many shops in the occupied territory are closed and notes that "these shops are closed because their owners cannot pay taxes or because they are suffering losses."

This report is followed by a 6-minute interview with Fa'iq Barakat, chairman of the Arab Commerce and Industry Chamber in Jerusalem. Barakat sheds more light on the economic situation in the occupied territory in general and in Jerusalem in particular. He says, "The heavy taxes imposed on the merchants weigh heavily on them." He adds: "Jerusalem has been depending on tourism for many years. Tourism is somewhat stalemated for many reasons. Hotels are suffering from a very bad economic crisis." He notes that the continuous fluctuation in the Israeli currency and the Israeli development plan have further worsened the economic situation and unemployment; saying: "This situation must be solved. We appeal to Arab officials to take a special look at Jerusalem because of its bad economic situation." He adds: "If this situation continues, it will have negative effects on the people." He points out that what further worsened this situation is that the "support from our sons who work in the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia has somewhat stopped."

Answering a question on the solutions which will tackle the situation, Barakat says: "There should be projects to absorb the unemployed and to entrench the people. Housing projects are necessary." He adds that the houses in the old city must be reconstructed and hotels and small factories must be supported.

Next is a 6-minute interview with three merchants from Jerusalem on the economic situation in Jerusalem. The merchants express "concern over the deteriorating economic situation in the occupied territory in general and Jerusalem in particular." They say the reasons for this situation are "the high taxes imposed by Israel, tourism is not active, the salaries employees are small, and the nonexistence of liquidity."

This week's episode concludes that the following 1-minute announcer-read report: "In light of this situation in the occupied territory, the development program comes as an advanced step of thinking and planning to organize and coordinate economic and social development efforts in the occupied territory as well as to help absorb laborers and exploit available resources in the occupied territory to serve the people and to make the means of human dignity available."

No further processing planned.

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CSO: 4400/146

AL-RA'Y HITS ISRAELI 'PIRACY' IN SEIZURE OF CARGO BOAT

JN081041 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Terrorist Pirates"]

[Text] At a time when it has been launching a frenzied campaign to combat terrorism and tirelessly trying to link Arabs and Muslims to this phenomenon, Israel felt no embarrassment in intercepting a small cargo boat off the Lebanese coast, forcing it to go to occupied Palestine, and arresting its passengers on the pretext that they are members of the Palestinian resistance.

It is obvious the naval conventions view the highjacking of the boat as an act of terrorist piracy. This operation confirms again state terrorism has been Israel's creed since its inception. Israel had committed similar criminal acts of piracy in the French territorial waters when it stole a number of torpedo boats from the French port of Cherbourg several years ago.

Thus it has become clear Israel is the country which introduced naval terrorism into the region and it has been nurturing it and trying to legitimize it with false claims and feeble excuses. Needless to say, this serious type of terrorism will lead to violent and adverse reactions, and will eventually nurture a climate fraught with tension and danger in the region.

Hence, the international community is called upon to decisively confront the Israeli piracy to prevent the Mediterranean from turning into an arena for terrorism and also to save what is left of respect for naval conventions. It must be emphasized the required confrontation of this piracy in an indispensable prerequisite for preparing the region for true peace. It is unreasonable to expect the region to move toward peace at a time when the belligerent Israelis continue to perpetrate terrorist acts on land, at sea, and in the air. It is also impossible to prevent adverse and explosive acts occurring as long as the terrorist Israelis continue with their evil practices which escalate tension in the region.

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CSO: 4400/1 6

JORDAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS ICO MEETINGS IN KUWAIT

JN2 2041 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Ibrahim Shahzadah in Kuwait--live or recorded]

[Text] [Shahzadah] Mr minister, what are the most important issues discussed by the foreign ministers of the Muslim countries which will be referred to the Islamic summit?

[Al-Masri] Many issues that were on the agenda were discussed. Draft resolutions were approved a short while ago. The most important of such issues is naturally the Palestinian question and the Middle East issue. There was also a new topic on the agenda on terrorism. There was complete agreement by all member states to include the topic and its approval did not take long in view of the feeling of Muslim states that we are in fact suffering from terrorism and that terrorism is being used against us. The Afghan issue was also discussed, and a draft resolution was approved and will be referred to the summit. Other topics discussed were the Islamic Court of Justice, the situation in Lebanon, the camps war in Lebanon, and many other issues of interest to regional groupings in the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization].

[Shahzadah] What about the Iraqi-Iranian war?

[Al-Masri] The Iraqi-Iranian war was perhaps the most important issue at the [foreign ministers] conference. The foreign ministers completed their discussion of the topic and a draft resolution was unanimously approved. It will be referred to the summit.

The Iraqi-Iranian war was the main worry of all the delegations, regardless of their political lines, particularly since the conference is being held in Kuwait which is a very short distance from the scene of the battles. In some parts of Kuwait the sound of aircraft and artillery can be heard. The summit is also being held at a time when violent battles are raging following the recent attacks by the Iranian forces on the Iraqi front. There is a general feeling, more than ever before, that the war must end, and the Islamic summit must do something urgent and important toward such an end. We are awaiting the arrival of Arab and Muslim leaders so they will discuss the issue and so they can make a clear decision in that regard, particularly since the draft

resolution approved by the foreign ministers is a practical, objective draft resolution that has many opportunities for success.

[Shahzadah] Mr minister, participants in the foreign ministers conference are talking about a special, prominent Jordanian role. Can you give us an idea about that role?

[Al-Masri] I hope that is the case. Actually, we have made every effort so that the conference will adopt balanced resolutions and express the official Jordanian view on the various issues discussed. We are not only an ordinary member of the ICO, but also a working and effective member, and we believe we have an objective view on many issues. We constantly made contributions to the discussions, but our contributions did not go beyond the limit and were not unrealistic. For instance, we played a great role in the drafting committee. The committee met for scores of hours--and I am not exaggerating when I say this. The Jordanian views expressed in the committee meetings were taken into consideration. The draft resolutions put forward by Jordan were incorporated within the other draft resolutions which were redrafted and were submitted to the foreign ministers conference and approved. Praise be to God, we enjoy a reputation of being objective.

[Shahzadah] We heard about the possibility of Jordan hosting one of the ICO committees. It is true and when will that take place?

[Al-Masri] First, the establishment of the Science and Technology Academy, whose headquarters will be in Amman, has been approved. The formation of an information network or irrigation was approved and its headquarters will also be in Amman. There is also an intention within the foreign ministers conference to convene the next Islamic foreign ministers conference in Amman. The matter has not yet been decided, but it appears Jordan is the only candidate for hosting that conference.

[Shahzadah] Conference circles are also talking about the possibility of convening an Arab summit. Is there anything new about this issue?

[Al-Masri] There is nothing new, specially. The matter will be discussed when the Arab leaders arrive. However, I believe there is a feeling that an expanded Arab meeting--and it is preferable that it takes the form of an Arab summit--must be attended, since it appears that all of the Arab leaders will attend the Islamic summit. If such an Arab summit is held it will certainly be an off-shoot of the Islamic efforts on the various levels on all the issues.

Jordan's view is known, namely, that we want, welcome, and call for the convening of an Arab summit as soon as possible. If it cannot be officially held in an Arab capital, then there is an opportunity to convene an Arab summit in Kuwait now, officially or unofficially. God willing, that will take place. I am confident that his majesty the king will play a great role in this regard when he arrives in Kuwait.

[Shahzadah] Thank you, minister

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CSO, 4400/146

JORDAN

BRIEFS

CABINET RESTRICTS GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES--The Council of Ministers has held a special session during which it reviewed various aspects regulating government expenditures in all fields. The Council adopted several measures on not exceeding allocations set in the 1987 budget with respect to transport fees, travel allowances, and field and transport allowances and for limiting the travel of official delegations and committees abroad and expenditures on receptions and entertainment, as well as reducing by 10 percent allocations for water, electricity, fuel, and supplies in the budgets of ministries, departments, and government and public establishments. The Council also decided to cancel customs exemptions on purchases by all ministries, departments, and government and public establishments which are concluded after 25 February with the exception of cases approved by the Council. It also decided to cancel allowances for additional work with the exception of cases where the nature of work so dictates and on condition approval is obtained in advance from the Council of Ministers. The Council also decided that public establishments will not submit any tenders without the Council of Ministers' prior approval and that appointing employees using the allocations of workers wages will be suspended. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 87] /9604

SENATOR APPOINTED--Amman--A royal decree has been issued approving the appointment of Salim ibn Jad as a member of the Senate as of yesterday, Saturday. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Feb 87] /9604

CSO: 4400/148

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

CAIRO PAPER INTERVIEWS YASIR 'ARAFAT

PM261449 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Jan 87 p 10

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Hasanayn Kurum in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kurum] What is the latest news on the dialogue among Palestinian organizations? Will the PNC convene?

['Arafat] I appreciate your interest in the dialogue among Palestinian organizations, but at present this is not the central issue in the long course of the Palestinian struggle or in the daily confrontations in which the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people are engaged. We have a democratic system in which there is continuous dialogue among the various formations, organizations, and institutions. This is an integral part of the democratic process characteristic of the Palestinian arena. The dialogue you have asked about is part of constant and regular dialogues in our arena. Once the Palestinian leadership considers that the circumstances are right, it will immediately convene a PNC meeting.

[Kurum] In the current battle and over the last 3 months all the Palestinian organizations have been united against the Amal forces' attacks on the camps. Has this unity been achieved on the initiative of the camps' military commanders or through political coordination among leaders of the organizations?

['Arafat] It must be understood that the main force present inside the camps is the PLO forces which defend the camps. They were formed from the residents of the camps. Other organizations have forces which vary in strength and weakness according to the organizations they are affiliated to. When the attacks against our people in the camps began and the PLO Executive Committee issued orders to resist the aggression in order to defend our people, children, women, and existence in Lebanon, everyone, without exception, rose in response to these orders to participate in protecting our camps.

[Kurum] What conditions would you accept in Lebanon that would also satisfy the Lebanese?

['Arafat] There are agreements between us and the Lebanese authorities. Contacts were made with the legitimate Lebanese authorities to change some of the agreements' clauses so as to correspond with new facts in both the

Lebanese and the Palestinian arenas. Out of our concern for Lebanon's security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity, we were and are still very flexible in this direction.

[Kurum] The current months-old battle in Lebanon has confirmed a firm fact: The PLO under your command is the real leadership of the Palestinian people. Do you think that this will facilitate the opening of more realistic channels for dialogue with Syria? Or will this lead to a further deterioration in relations with it?

[Arafat] Regrettably, there are secret agreements between Mcfarlane and Al-asad and between Mcfarlane and the Israeli leadership to share power in Lebanon and to partition it into sectarian cantons. The Israeli security influence extends to the parallel 3710 [as published]; the Syrians are to the north of this line. There is a gray or neutral area between Al-zahrani and Al-awwali regarding which a decision has not yet been made. In addition to that, there is an agreement not to allow the return of PLO fighters to Lebanon and to guarantee the security of the Israeli northern borders against the Palestinian fedayeen and their allies by two security belts; the first is Lahd and the second is Amal in the south. The disagreement is at present on turning those two belts into one belt to establish a canton, that is a new sectarian statelet in Lebanon under a plan to fragment Lebanon into sectarian statelets. The effects, like a dangerous disease, will spread to all parts of the Arab body. O God, be my witness; I have reported the facts. Therefore, the subject of disagreement between us and the sectarian regime which rules Damascus is these concepts that the regime has agreed with the enemies of our Arab nation. Regrettably, the Palestinian people are paying dearly as a result of these secret agreements mentioned by many Israeli and U.S. leaders in many statements.

[Kurum] Are there any contacts regarding new U.S. plans for a settlement?

[Arafat] Sorry, but I do not deal with it because I believe that the U.S. Administration with its repugnant, shameless, and ugly face is the mirror image of Zionism, but indeed they [the Americans] are even more Zionist than the Zionists themselves. The reason for this is the weakness of the Arab position. I recall that once, when there was a firm Arab stand, the U.S. Administration committed an act against the Egyptian ship "Cleopatra," and consequently the Arab world was quick to respond by closing all Arab ports to U.S. ships.

[Kurum] If we assume that the return of the West Bank to Jordan and the return of Gaza to Egypt are on offer, would you accept this on the basis that the important thing is the return of Arab land to the Arabs?

[Arafat] The important thing is not just the return of Arab territories to the Arabs. This is an Israeli idea which is rejected because this means writing off the Palestinian people; writing off 5 million Palestinians from the region. Anyone who goes in this direction is a traitor to his nation. These territories must return to their people.

[Kurum] If we assume that you are offered a return of the West Bank and Gaza strip and the establishment of a Palestinian state on them provided that it is within a confederation with Jordan and Israel, would you agree?

[Arafat] It should be understood that we accept what our PNC accepts without any conditions, otherwise we would undermine our sovereignty. As for the question of confederation, our council, which convened in Algeria before the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was signed, unanimously agreed to establish special relations with Jordan on a confederal basis. But I want to mention that this is a formula that was rejected by the Americans and the Israelis. This rejection was echoed by some Arabs. I hope that some of the Arab writers--whose only concern is to improve the image of the plots aimed at the Palestinian people--will have enough courage to frankly tell the Arab masses the facts of the situation, setting aside "the monthly remittance effect." They should not behave like those who are trying to praise the so-called development of the occupied territories, which is just a U.S.-Israeli plan to improve the image of the Israeli occupation, even though it is just an imaginary and false plan. The Americans, who gave Egypt no more than a very limited reduction in interest on debts, will never give our people in the occupied territories 1.2 billion dollars. If the speaker is mad, let the listener be wise.

[Kurum] Finally, assuming that you are offered a Palestinian state provided you forfeit some territories to Israel, what would you say?

[Arafat] What I would say is that I would raise this question with our Arab nation. The Palestinian people have no right to decide on their own to forfeit a single foot of Arab land. This is derived from the fact that Palestine is the land of Muhammad's ascension and in it are the first of the two qiblahs and the third Holy Place. Therefore it belongs to the Arabs and Muslims.

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CSO: 4400/151

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED BY AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM

JN291235 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 25 Jan 87 p 22

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM; place, date not given]

[Text] [AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] If we ask you about the Islamic summit in Kuwait, what would you say?

[Arafat] I believe the Islamic summit is one of the most important conferences of our Arab and Islamic nation because it is being convened under serious circumstances affecting the future and existence of this nation. This summit follows the current deterioration of our Arab and Islamic nation. On the Islamic level, for example, we have the mad Iraqi-Iranian war and the Iranian leaders' rejection of all the Islamic and international attempts, as well as those of the Nonaligned Movement, to stop the war at a time when Iraq has accepted all of the peace initiatives. Hence, we as the PLO and in our capacity as a member of all the good offices committees call for ending this war through practical steps to be taken by our Islamic nation. Here, I should refer to the initiative we presented to the good offices committee. This initiative stresses the need to use Islamic forces to stop this war. The initiative is also based on the resolutions issued by the Al-ta'if and the Casablanca summit conferences. These resolutions empower the Islamic committee to use Islamic forces to disengage the warring forces.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Does this mean that you pin hope on the outcome of the Islamic conferences?

[Arafat] Certainly and without any doubts.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] There were Islamic summits prior to this one but they did not produce positive results.

[Arafat] There are clear resolutions on the need to use disengagement forces. I should point out that the Islamic good offices committee did not adopt the Palestinian viewpoint on the need to use such forces in accordance with resolutions issued by the Casablanca and Al-ta'if summits.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Was this the only solution for halting the war?

['Arafat] In my personal opinion, in accordance with my experience since the start of the war between the two armies, and as a result of our failure to convince the Iranian side to accept mediations, I can say that this is the only solution we have.

[AL-RA'Y AL'AMM] I am wondering about your insistence on the importance of this summit and your belief that it will be decisive?

['Arafat] The summit is urged to be decisive as it is being convened near the roar of the guns and the battles that are claiming thousands of Muslims. The summit is called upon to be decisive.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Hence, hope for the convocation of the summit and its results.

['Arafat] Not only hope. The summit is urged, since it is being convened at this particular time and place, to make this fateful Islamic issue its top priority.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Is there anything more effective than merely forming committees?

['Arafat] I hope this will be a special kind of summit because it is being convened in the vicinity of another explosive and serious development: the camps war and the continuing massacres that are being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. The idea of the Islamic conference was commenced following the burning of the Al Aqsa mosque. Following this crime, the Muslims conferred among themselves and formed the Islamic Conference Organization and the Islamic summits to defend this Islamic nation. Today, there is a conspiracy inside our occupied land aimed at Judaizing the holy shrines of Muslims and Christians, but which is mainly aimed against the Islamic shrines and holy places. For example, the Ibrahim Mosque has become a Jewish synagogue and Muslims are not allowed to perform prayers there. They are only allowed to pray in the outside courtyard and only on Fridays. There is a conspiracy aimed at Judaizing the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque that is being perpetrated by fanatical Jewish organizations and groups with satanic names. As Palestinians, we had agreed to appoint permanent guards for this mosque from volunteers, who last year managed to foil four attempts to blow up the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The latest act by these fanatics was the prayers they performed in the holy mosque by force. Thus, the Islamic Conference Organization, which was principally established following the Al-Aqsa mosque fire, is demanded to give clear answers as to what practical steps the Muslims ashould adopt.

[Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Are we saying demands only now? When was the Al-Aqsa fire?

['Arafat] Regrettably, this is true. However, the implementation phase is here. There are 1.25 billion Muslims in the world and they can do a great deal. When the Arab workers refused to unload the "Cleopatra" ship they alone forced the United States to retreat. Imagine what would happen if there was a unified Islamic stand. Of course, there are other explosive situations and hot issues. This is why the summit is important at this time.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] I have noticed that you placed the Iraqi-Iranian war ahead of the camps war.

['Arafat] I discuss but I don't recite poetry. When I discuss hot issues I place them according to priority. The Iraqi-Iranian war has top priority, then comes the camps war.

[Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Do you think an Arab summit will result from the Islamic summit?

['Arafat] I have my doubts. At best, there might be a meeting.

[Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Only a meeting?

['Arafat] Yes, only a meeting at best.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] There have been bilateral meetings and many preparatory meetings.

['Arafat] These bilateral meetings can develop into a meeting at best, not into a summit conference. This is unless great efforts are exerted. I believe such a meeting would not be attended by all the Arab countries.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] We have talked about bilateral meetings for coordination. What about a meeting between King Husayn and 'Arafat? Can it achieve any progress?

['Arafat] I will meet with my Muslim brothers and all the Arab leaders, including His Majesty King Husayn. I welcome this meeting.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Do you think coordination can again be resumed between you and Jordan?

['Arafat] I believe that such a meeting will produce an agreement. But it is more important for this meeting to begin a new phase in Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] We have heard that some countries have objected to Egypt's participation in the conference. Your role in restoring Egypt to the conference is well known.

['Arafat] Such an objection should be rejected because the decision was taken by an Arab summit, and no one has the right to discuss this issue again. Egypt attended the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Sanaa. During the Casablanca summit conference, we settled the debate. The PLO settled the debate on this issue. As a result, a committee was set up. King Husayn was asked to set up a committee and go to President Husni Mubarak for talks.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] In fact you support Egypt's presence at such meetings.

['Arafat] During the Casablanca summit, we asked that a decision was issued on Egypt's expulsion. [sentence as published]

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] You depended on a legal point.

[Arafat] Of course. There is no decision expelling Egypt. I also reminded all the countries which attended the Al-Ta'if summit. I was there.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Are you going to present certain proposals or a working paper to the summit?

[Arafat] Of course. We have a working paper on the camps war, on the conditions of our people in the occupied territories, on the Gulf war, on the heated Islamic issues, on the economic situation of our nation, and on the economic and technological cooperation among our Islamic peoples. It is a rich working paper, and the Palestinian presence there will be a distinguished one.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Do you believe the summit will issue resolutions that can change the course of events?

[Arafat] I believe that if a courageous decision on one issue such as the Iraqi-Iranian war is taken. There will be a change.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] In fact, the Iraqi-Iranian war is a hot issue. What comes second?

[Arafat] The camps war is directly related to the conditions of the Palestinians in Lebanon. We should not consider halting the camps war or keeping the arms in the camps apart from the Palestinian situation in Lebanon, which is the main basis to be discussed, because the camps war is aimed at evacuating the Palestinians from Lebanon.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Thus, we must say here that there is a Lebanese issue because it is related to the sectarian division that is currently aimed against the refugee camps, and that you are part of it. Why not let the summit discuss the Lebanese issue?

[Arafat] We as Palestinians have no right to discuss the Lebanese issue except from the corner from which we sense danger. Currently, there is a sectarian conspiracy which is not only aimed against Lebanon. Lebanon is the testing ground for the balkanizing of the Arab region and the establishment of sectarian cantons. If we accept this view, and since there are 73 groups in Islam, then the conspiracy is aimed at fragmenting our Arab and Islamic nations.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Can the Islamic summit do anything to stop this sectarian monster?

[Arafat] At least the Islamic summit will clearly discuss this, or at least we will ask the Islamic summit to do so.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] This is what I meant. The Palestinian presence there is also linked to the current sectarian partitioning plans in Lebanon. Therefore, the Palestinian working paper should include this point.

['Arafat] Exactly. We realize this and are eager to clarify it.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Will the Iraq-Iran war be a factor leading to the failure of the Islamic summit?

['Arafat] On the contrary. I believe that the Iraq-Iran war and dealing with it in a frank and clear way...

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Excuse me sir. Who can guarantee such frankness and clarity?

['Arafat] At least we will speak frankly and clearly. The Iraqi side will speak frankly and clearly.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Some courtesy and etiquette usually takes place within conferences and even within the Arab summit conferences.

['Arafat] Maybe, but not at the expense of the strategic issues. Any meeting is a result of concordance of opinions.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Can an Arab country's departure from the Arab consensus be overcome?

['Arafat] It can be overcome. The Nonaligned Movement's summit bypassed many deviationist positions and adopted resolutions it deemed appropriate. The Islamic summit in Casablanca in 1983 bypassed those who opposed the restoration of Egypt and Egypt returned to the Arab fold.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Do you believe the emergency Arab summit was a success?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, the fact that the Arab summit was convened is itself a success.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] But not all the leaders attended?

['Arafat] This is not important. The Amman summit was convened with fewer leaders attending than the emergency summit and was a success. It adopted very important decisions at the international level, including the first Arab agreement to an international conference. Moreover, the Islamic summit approved Egypt's return.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Can we say that in general you are optimistic about the convocation of the Islamic summit?

['Arafat] I have named this the summit of those against whom aggression is taking place. It is the summit of Iraq which is being subjected to an aggression. The summit of the PLO and the Palestinian people in their refugee camps who are being subjected to aggression. The summit of the Gulf people who are threatened with aggression. The summit of Lebanon and the Lebanese people who are being subjected to aggression. That is why I gave it this name.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] You want to do justice to all those who have been subjected to aggression. Is this not too much to hope for?

['Arafat] I am not saying doing them justice, more accurately supporting them.

/9716

CSO: 4400/151

PLO RADIO CARRIES FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH ARTICLE

JN301145 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text" of editorial in "this week's" FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH, organ of Fatah, entitled: "When the Applause Rises"]

[Text] Fatah is the largest Palestinian organization in the PLO. Fatah's anniversary is the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. Nevertheless, Fatah's celebrations of its anniversary, which is the Palestinian national day, are more modest than in the past. All other factions in the PLO--which when taken together are smaller in number and have fewer capabilities than Fatah--hold large, loud celebrations on their anniversaries. The contrast is known to anyone who compares Fatah's publications with the publications of the other factions.

A congratulations message from the head of a friendly, major country on Fatah's anniversary enjoys less prominence and is given less space than a congratulations message from a minor Arab figure of a small Arab party to another Palestinian faction on its anniversary. The ordinary Palestinian and Arab reader can easily identify such a phenomenon which is explained not only by Fatah's voluntary or compulsory shunning of the manifestations of grandeur, but also signifies Fatah's self-confidence which stems from the Palestinian people's confidence in Fatah and from Fatah's success in a difficult mission that will be recorded in Palestinian history; namely, saving the dear revolution from withering away or being mortgaged following the battle of Beirut. Hence, Fatah has won the overwhelming support of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The leader of Fatah and the PLO, the struggler Yasir 'Arafat, can say that he did not come to power on a tank or through Arab elections in which he won 99 percent of the votes. Now that Fatah has deservedly won the enormous responsibility of protecting the revolution, just as prior to the departure from Beirut it deservedly won the no lesser responsibility of safeguarding the Palestinian revolution, the great and worthy Fatah is leading the present enormous task of restoring and regaining the unity of the PLO factions.

We can seriously view the fifth congress of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists as a good sign that portends the restoration of the unity of the Palestinian factions. Its convening some 3 years after the fourth congress in Sanaa in April 1984 has much significance: First, it gives

a practical framework to the five-sided Palestinian Prague declaration and, consequently, it has brought the convening of the 18th PNC session closer. Second, the convening of the fourth legal congress in Sanaa was the beginning of the battle for the defense of Palestinian legality. The Sanaa congress meant that Fatah and Palestinian legality accepted to challenge the Syrian veto on convening the 17th PNC session, and that the independence of the national decision-making process was no longer a mere slogan. Naturally, one should not say that Fatah has triumphed over the factions that did not go to Sanaa or Amman and that are going to Algiers in February. Fatah did not wage the battle for the defense of the Palestinian revolution and legality against its younger sisters, but fought the battle and faced an Arab state that insisted on challenging Palestinian legality using other Palestinian factions as much as it could.

The convening of the Fifth Congress of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists in Algeria means that the intellectual cover of the dissidents has receded; that is, if one can say that the dissidents had an intellectual cover or even a political justification. Talks, for instance, about the 'Arafatists is less serious even when viewed as irresponsible talk or jesting. It is merely foolishness. How then can one stigmatize the majority of Palestinian public opinion with foolishness. The famous public opinion poll carried out by Jerusalem AL-FAJR clearly showed the mass support enjoyed by every Palestinian faction. Some journalists affiliated with other Palestinian factions were sadly selective in their reading of the poll, whereas FILASTINAAL-THAWRAH had the moral courage to publish the results of the poll in full.

It was also saddening to read the distinctive play on words in the papers of the faction papers--papers which did their best to use funny and distinctive adjectives such as the official leadership, the rightist leadership, the influential leadership, and the deviationist leadership. It is funny to see them start a race with Fatah with regard to demonstrating a desire to restore PLO unity. We welcome everyone in their political and unique house. We welcome everyone in the legitimate Palestinian trade unions. Farewell to all unsuccessful efforts to create other trade unions and form an alternative PLO. The Palestinian wounds caused by the schism will be cured because they are superficial wounds and because the Palestinian body--which is covered with wounds--acquired immunity. As for the wounds of the Palestinian spirit caused by the stupid and the reckless, Palestinian democracy is its curing medicine.

We know that perfection is hard to attain in any democracy. Despite its slips and mistakes, our Palestinian democracy is an ideal example which does not exist in Arab or Liberation movements. By the time we establish our national state, we will have a struggle and democratic heritage which will reassure us about the domination of democracy in our aspired state. At that time, every party and faction will play a role commensurate with its size and will be represented in the legitimate institutions of the Palestinian state in manner that is commensurate with its numerical and intellectual weight. This does not mean ignoring the gaps that were revealed in the revolutionary democratic experience represented by the events that took place in the Al-biqa' and Tripoli battles. The factions represented in the writers and journalists

conference and in the PNC are not asked to accept Fatah's views or to approve of its next steps. On the other hand, the bitter experience which is known as a rift--whereas it should be called collapse, defeatism or hesitation--must have taught some factions about their sizes and made them give up--even slightly--their criticism, which is executed in a manner that sometimes resembles extortion or a form of mental terrorism. We highly appreciate all of the Arab and foreign progressive and national regimes, particularly those who are keen on preserving Palestinian national interests.

Can any small Palestinian faction claim that it receives more respect and appreciation from any Arab national regime or any foreign progressive regime than what the PLO receives from the Arab and foreign liberation movements and the progressive and communist parties. This implies that some Palestinian factions should demonstrate a responsible attitude and commitment to national Palestinian interests by not obtaining support from any Arab regime or international party when it differs in views with Fatah. It is no longer acceptable, for instance, to see some factions continue to blindly confirm the progressive nature of a certain Arab country while excessively expressing doubts about the national and pan-Arab policy of the PLO leadership.

Let us look at some factions who remain silent when Libya changes its tactics and political alliances with its neighbors and others or when Syria does the same in its Lebanese or Arab alliances. On the other hand, when the PLO chairman--who enjoys the support of the Executive Committee, the PNC, and foremost of which is the confidence of his people--pays a visit to a country these factions interpret his visit as a capitulation to the will of the Camp David regime in Egypt or to the royal Hashemite regime.

The credit for the fact that Fatah and the PLO leadership did not capitulate from the time of the 16th PNC session does not go to the strict supervision of the Palestinian factions over Fatah's policy and the PLO leadership because no faction can institute stricter Palestinian control than that which Fatah devised for itself.

As another example, let us examine the actual results of all the accusations levelled at Fatah's leadership of having relinquished the path of armed struggle and having laid down their arms because everyone knows that Fatah tried more than anyone else to cross the sea in order to strike within Israel. It was Fatah that was the target of the attack on Tunisia. It was Fatah that shouldered the greater part of the burden in defending the retention of the Palestinian gun in the camps. It was Fatah that stood firm even in keeping its fighters alone in Maghdushah--not in order to impede honorable initiatives, but as a result of military and political calculations that serve the goal of ensuring the greatest possible degree of security for the Palestinian camps and ending the state of hostility toward the Palestinian camps and the Palestinian presence.

It is logical that Fatah did not shoulder such a heavy military responsibility and did not make such a costly and exhausting additional effort at a time when its lines of communication were long merely to demonstrate its fighting credibility in the face of such reckless accusations. As we are discussing some aspects of the armed struggle, it is necessary that after such

an experience and such proof and after 20 years of continued fighting we should safeguard the dignity and reputation of armed struggle, and the Supreme Military Council of the Palestinian Revolution Forces should assume control over the military communiqes which the various factions issue as they please. It is not necessary for every faction to issue its own communique on a skirmish, clash, or battle fought in defense of the refugee camps. An end must be put to several factions competing against each other in issuing conflicting and high-sounding communiqes on minor or complex operations carried out in Palestine.

Finally, there is a highly important Fatah process which, nevertheless, is less important than the national unity of the Palestinian factions and the joint defense of the PLO's legality. Fatah--where there is more democracy than in any other Palestinian faction, so much so that Fatah is a microcosm of the various trends and currents that exist among the Palestinian people--appears to have neglected itself for the sake of the national cause and the defense of the PLO. As it is comparatively early to say that the Palestinian state will be established in the near future, it means that Fatah, the backbone of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO, will shoulder enormous burdens, perhaps more enormous than in the past. We do not believe Fatah's entity must dissolve within the PLO in the same way the Al-'asifah merged with the forces of Fatah and the Palestinian revolution. Fatah's special role and responsibility also means that it is separate on the organizational and other levels. When the 18th PNC session is held there will be applause for the success of Palestinian democracy in overcoming its most serious ordeal. Although Yasir 'Arafat will be among the applauders and the happiest among the Palestinians, the Arab world and the world will conclude that most of the applause is in fact directed at the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat.

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CSO: 4400/151

SYRIAN PRESS ON U.S. MILITARY BUILDUP, EUROPEAN STAND

JN090814 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Press review]

[Text] The newspapers' editorials today deal with the U.S. military buildup in the Mediterranean. Al-BA'TH says: It has become well known to the entire world that the Reagan administration escalates tension in this or that region whenever it faces an international impasse which can only be solved through exporting the crisis. Certainly, the crises which have struck that administration--the administration which has practiced the course of force and arrogance as if it owns the world--are not the only cause of the military concentrations in the region. The coordination between Washington and the Zionist enemy has never stopped with regard to the planning of a joint and prepared plan on the Middle East which is considered within the strategic account of the two allies. This coordination which is based on the policy of separate deals to fragment the Arabs has continued on two lines--the political line and the line of force. However, recent history has proved that the political path has achieved nothing after Al-Sadat's treason despite the persistent attempts to expand the Camp David accords.

AL-BA'TH adds: Recent history has also proved that resorting to force and muscle-flexing will not frighten our nation's masses which have always affirmed their continuous readiness and high preparedness to confront the gunboat and sabre-rattling policy despite Washington's belligerency and coordination with the Zionist enemy.

In its editorial today, TISHRIN says: There are reports about a possible U.S. military interference in Lebanon to release the hostages. Western sources said that Washington insists on an Israeli role in any possible move. This prompted the West European countries to refuse to participate in the suggested meeting of the seven industrialized countries, fearing that their naval forces would be involved in a useless war.

TISHRIN says: It is obvious that the aim of the U.S. military buildup in the Mediterranean is not merely a show of muscle-flexing. The U.S. Administration is trying to achieve more than one subject. It is trying to cover up the series of internal scandals, to regain the confidence of the Congress and the Americans, to regain positions which were lost as a result of Washington's reckless policies, and to threaten the national Arab forces, particularly

Syria, with the big stick. However, this policy of force achieved nothing in the past and there is nothing to indicate that it will achieve anything now or in the future. The results are expected to be tragic for the U.S. administration itself.

TISHRIN concludes: The national forces, which waged grinding battles against the Zionist invaders and their U.S. protectors, will not allow the fleets to return to Lebanon after they were dismissed. If the U.S. administration is searching for a way out of the hostages issue the solution will be through dialogue and positive efforts as well as in halting interference in Lebanon's affairs in avoiding obstructing reconciliation efforts. A strong and healthy Lebanon can impose security on its territory. Lebanon cannot rise up without reconciliation and without Syria's support and help. In other words, the picture will change when the U.S. administration takes into consideration Lebanese interest and when it stops subjugating these interests to the Zionists' will.

/9274
CSO: 4400/146

AL-BA'TH VIEWS CURRENT U.S. MANEUVERS IN REGION

JN230917 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jan 87

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States Is Encircling the Arab Homeland With Maneuvers," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: For more than 10 years the United States has talked publicly about its aggressive plans against the Arab nation despite the fact that U.S. aggress-ons took place many years before. U.S. selection of sites and areas around the Arab homeland to carry out provocative military maneuvers confirms that Washington has fully implemented the words of Defense Secretary Weinberger.

At present, U.S. fleets and thousands of soldiers are massing in the eastern Mediterranean to carry out military maneuvers. The least to be said about it is that it is a prelude to some action against some area in the Arab homeland. As this maneuver coincides with similar maneuvers in the Turkish region of Adana and also in the occupied Palestinian Negev and in the Indian Ocean, this matter can no longer be subject to interpretation. Otherwise, why are all these U.S. military concentrations around Arab territory?

Talking publicly about all this hostility, the United States relies on bases and conclusions which will clear it of condemnation. U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy recently visited the region. Today, giant U.S. fleets and aircraft are moving in all directions. Hence, is it logical to say that what Murphy brought with him was not linked to this U.S. military move?

AL-BA'TH adds: At a time when the United States is flooding the Arab homeland with local and regional fighting and at a time when the whole of Europe is in U.S. hands, there is not the least doubt that the United States is paving the way for something which might have grave consequences on Arab and international levels. Since we, as an Arab nation, are being targeted and since all U.S. military and conspiratorial moves are designed against our hopes and are meant to increase our pains, then what can we do? Will our current situation remain as it is so that Zionist attacks against our lands will continue? Will we remain silent about what is taking place?

Those who are waiting for peace to be granted by the United States are deluded as are those awaiting liberation of occupied Arab lands by a U.S. decision. This is because all these U.S. military concentrations around the Arab homeland were the result of a Zionist decision to serve Zionist aims and designs on our Arab land.

ICO SHOULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ENEMY, FRIEND

JN272024 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The eyes of Arabs and Muslims are now directed at Kuwait where the fifth ICO summit is being held under extremely delicate circumstances in the Middle East in particular and the Islamic world in general, and amid dangers threatening the Arab and Islamic presently--dangers on the confrontation of which the fate of the Arabs and Muslims depends.

The Kuwait summit, which commenced yesterday with the attendance of leaders and representatives of the Islamic governments, finds itself from the very start faced with a dangerous question: Has the Islamic world actually defined its real enemy without any doubt and realized the racism of this enemy and his limitless greed is swallowing up the Muslim culture and obliterating its place in human civilization? And was the Islamic confrontation of that racist enemy commensurate with the resources of Muslims and the danger threatening their history and holy places?

Conclusive evidence leaves no doubt that Israel and its Zionist expansion anywhere on earth is the real enemy of Arabs and Muslims, that its racist course is a clear contradiction of the principles of Islam and national and pan-Arab aspirations and that the Zionist greed for occupying the land of the Arabs and Muslims and seizing their resources and cultural heritage is limitless. Conclusive evidence also shows that the imperialist support provided by the United States to Israel has reached the point where we can put this support and its offering it in the category of enemies who aim against our entire existence and who are openly working to impose the Zionist will on the present and future of the Arabs and Muslims.

Because the issue is so clear, the minimum duty of defending the Arab and Islamic existence requires the Kuwait summit to clearly distinguish between the enemy and the friend and take into consideration that the Zionist-U.S. scheme is aimed at an entire region and a whole nation--a scheme that makes no distinction between hot and cold lines. Overlooking any Zionist-U.S. success on any Arab-Islamic front finally serves as encouragement for continuing the fulfillment of the entire Zionist dream as far as any spot in the Arab and Muslim world the Israeli tank can reach.

Damascus, which is participating in the ICO summit in Kuwait through the Arab Muslims leader President Hafiz al-Asad at a time when the world is watching Syria's stand on the issues presented at the Kuwait summit with extreme attention, will not, as it has never done, in any way allow the peddling of a course that is hostile to the aspirations of the Arabs and Muslims or inconsistent with their interests at any conference or behind-the-scenes conclave. Regardless of pressures, Damascus will not allow itself to deal with any Arabs and Muslims on the basis of faits accompli, which some parties seek to make a law in their political dealings--a law which obstructs the road of struggle before all and kills the national and pan-Arab aspirations of the Arabs and Muslims.

Our enemy and the enemy of the Arabs and Muslims is Israel. Anyone who resists and confronts it is in line with us. There is a distance that cannot be abridged between us and those of whom the fighting and confrontation of Israel, as well as those who confront it, mean nothing as this cannot be achieved at the expense of the Arab and Islamic causes.

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CSO 4400/146

SYRIA

BRIEFS

CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH USSR—Damascus, 4 Feb--It was announced here today that several contracts on importing various materials from the USSR during the first half of 1987 were signed between Syria and the USSR. The materials to be imported from the USSR include wrought iron, industrial iron, (?bilate), tin boards, various sizes of pipe, and timber. These contracts were signed in implementation of the protocol on the exchange of commodities between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR for 1986-90. [Text] [Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Feb 87 JN] /9274

OUTGOING, INCOMING ENVOYS—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Cypriot ambassador in Damascus Yeoryios Likourgos at the end of his term of office. He also received new UAE Ambassador to Syria Dr 'Ali Muhammad 'Ali Humaydan, who presented a copy of his credentials. [Summary] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Feb 87 JN] /9274

CSO: 4400/146

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO LINK EAST, SOUTH TO NATIONWIDE RAIL

Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Nov 86 p 11

[Interview with Engineer Afshar, deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Mashhad by IRNA; date not specified]

[Text] Mashhad, IRNA. With the completion of the studies and the implementation of the country's comprehensive rail network plan and the creation of the Sarakhs-Mashhad and Sirjan-Chahbahar railroad, the east and south of the country will be linked to the nationwide railroad system.

This statement was made in an interview with IRNA by Engineer Afshar, the deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who had traveled to Mashhad to take part in the national seminar of directors of the central and regional railroads of the country.

He also referred to the implementation of a part of the Bafeq-Bandar 'Abbas railroad, a stretch of 700 km, and mentioned the allocation of 160 billion rials in funds.

He also announced: The implemental project to double the Tehran-Qom railroad, a stretch of 164 km, is also underway.

In this interview, the director general of railroads mentioned the creation of the 17 km belt of rails of Eprin station to Shahabad as another task of the railroads of the Islamic Republic which is underway and said: This line is underway with funds of 1.4 billion rials. When it is operational, the railroads of Qom, Tabriz and Mashhad will be linked.

Continuing, Engineer Afshar referred to the efforts to achieve self-sufficiency that have taken place in the railroads.

In connection with raising the quality of services on passenger trains, he said: Soon, special services to railroad passengers, which are now implemented in the two extra Tehran-Mashhad trains, will be available on all trains.

IRAN

TELEPHONE CENTER INAUGURATED

Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Nov 86 p 11

[Text] Mashhad, CENTRAL NEWS UNIT. On the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the great Prophet of Islam, his holiness Mohammad ebn-e 'Abdollah, the central urban telephone building of the city of Gonabad was inaugurated in ceremonies attended by Mr Gharazi, the minister of post and telegraph, the directors general of post communications of Khorasan Province, two of the Majlis representatives of the people of Yazd and Gonabad, the governor and Friday imam of Gonabad, and several city officials. According to the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT report, at the present, this center has 2,000 urban telephone lines and 18 intercity entry and exit channels, which have been installed and put into operation by committed Iranian experts and engineers. This number can readily be increased to 5,000 lines. According to this report, the center building has 800 square meters under construction at a cost of one billion rials, which was funded and paid by the Iranian communications company.

10,000
CSO: 4640/85

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF AIRPORTS--Zahedan, IRNA. In order to create sufficient facilities and expedite the export of non-petroleum products, a number of the airports of the country will be internationalized. This statement was announced by Mr Sa'idikia, the minister of roads and transport, who traveled to Zahedan at the head of a delegation. Speaking in a gathering of the employees of the central office of roads and transport of Sistan and Baluchestan, he said in this regard: Thank God, the conspiracy to decrease the price of oil has resulted in the activation of the export of non-petroleum products. He added: For this purpose, the determination to internationalize a number of the airports in the country has been made in order to facilitate and expedite the export of non-petroleum products. He continued: All ports of the country in operation at the present will become more active to effectively help non-petroleum product exports and provide the necessary facilities. Referring to the imposed war and the economic embargo of the enemies, he said: In this sensitive situation in the country, when certain problems have been created because of the conspiracies of the enemies, it is necessary for each one of us in any position to increase the despair of the enemies and prepare for final victory in various dimensions. Referring to the active presence of the technical forces of the affiliated departments of the Ministry of Roads and Transport on the battle fronts and their fruitful role in the victorious operations of the combatants, he said: The hard-working brothers in the roads and transport departments showed in several war operations that they were able to play a beneficial and useful role shoulder to shoulder with other Islamic combatants. [Text] [Tehran RESALAT 15 Nov 86 p 11] 10,000

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